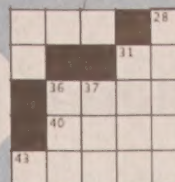




Study shows drinking diet soda will
not help you lose weight

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY B7



Try out the "LaCross
Word" puzzle in the
Cartoons section!

CARTOONS B6

the johns hopkins News-Letter

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University to permit opposite-sex housing

By NANCY CHEN
For The News-Letter

This year, for the first time in the University's history, students signing up for on-campus housing will be able to choose to register in gender inclusive units.

This option will be available for all students living in on-campus housing next year, including incoming freshmen, current freshmen and upperclassmen.

The policy shift reflects a step the University is taking to make its housing environment more comfortable for students.

"Inclusive housing helps Residential Life fulfill their mission of providing safe and inclusive housing that supports the needs of Hopkins students," Demere

Woolway, Director of LG-BTQ Life, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "This has the potential to especially impact the lives of transgender students, who are sometimes housed in a way that does not respect their gender identity. With gender inclusive housing, trans students can be housed in a way that supports their identity."

Gender inclusive housing will be an option and will not be required. Units will not be located on a specific building, floor or wing. The rooms will be identified as gender inclusive only after the room selection process.

Currently, the Department of Housing and Dining Services allows group housing in McCoy Hall with mixed genders in a

SEE DORMS, PAGE A4



COURTESY OF MICHAEL NAKAN

"The Wolf of Phi Psi" video has over 160,000 views on *Vimeo.com*. A Phi Psi brother impersonates Leonardo DiCaprio in the parody.

Phi Psi video draws ire from University

By ELIZABETH ARENZ
For The News-Letter

On Feb. 8, the brothers of the Hopkins chapter of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity posted a parody of *The Wolf of Wall Street* trailer on *Vimeo.com*, a video sharing website. Within hours, it had been picked up by other sites, such as *TotalFratMove.com*, where it was proclaimed to be "so damn good" and given "two thumbs way up."

Since then, it has gone viral, reportedly making it across the Atlantic to viewers in Europe. Senior Holly Clarke, who was featured as an actress in the spoof, confirmed its far-reaching popularity.

"Even my cousins who live in England saw it," she said.

The short film was an idea conceived by senior Michael Nakan, a former president of the University's Maryland Alpha Chapter of Phi Psi. Nakan also filmed, produced and

edited the work. The script, however, was written in collaboration with several others. The fraternity brothers who created the film began filming over the University's Intersession period. Within weeks, the crew had produced the complete project.

Some viewers have reacted positively, including those at Hopkins who are happy to add another dimension to the school's academic reputation.

"I was impressed by the cinematography of the video and by [its] popularity,"

SEE PHI PSI, PAGE A4



BRETT BRODSKY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Dorms will house gender-inclusive units to accommodate different needs.

Board justifies President's salary

By EMILY HERMAN
Staff Writer

President Ronald J. Daniels was listed as the 30th highest-paid private college president on *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* annual list of executive compensation at private colleges. The list of 2011 executive compensations was published in December just before the Board of Trustees voted to extend Daniels' contract until 2019.

Daniels, who made \$1,184,535 in 2011, was the seventh highest-paid private college president among institutions deemed similar based on statistics such as degrees

offered, total expenditures and endowment size.

"One of the things that goes into the thought process [in deciding a university president's salary] is the complexity of the institution, and Johns Hopkins is enormously complex," Chairman of the Hopkins Board of Trustees Jeff Aronson said.

Daniels' salary was determined by the Board of Trustees' Compensation Committee, which Aronson chairs. After the committee deliberates, they present their decisions to the full board.

"We look at a variety of factors, [including] the competitive landscape and how [Daniels] is ful-

filling the mission of the university," Aronson said.

University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer was the highest paid university president on *The Chronicle's* list overall and within the subgroup of institutions *The Chronicle* deemed as "similar" to Hopkins, earning \$3,358,723 in total compensation in 2011. University of Pennsylvania President Amy Gutmann was second on both lists, earning \$2,091,764.

Compared to Georgetown President John DeGioia and Cornell President David Skorton, who earned \$875,317 and \$865,331, Daniels

SEE SALARY, PAGE A5

Model UN Conference sees record turnout

By MARC MOUTINHO
Staff Writer

Between Thursday and Sunday, the Johns Hopkins Model United Nations Conference (JHUMUNC) hosted a total of 1,680 high school students from all over the world at the Hilton Baltimore, making JHUMUNC XVII the largest conference in the history of the undergraduate organization.

Model United Nations (MUN) is an increasingly popular extracurricular activity for many high school students across the nation. Several universities play host to the largest conferences, where students simulate political organizations, roleplay as members of those organizations and engage in debate to resolve their simulated challenges.

As its name would suggest, the organizations most commonly simulated at MUN conferences are United Nations organs. Traditionally, students participating in MUN would role-play as the delegate of one country or another to bodies such as the UN

Security Council or one of the many General Assembly committees.

However, the MUN community has since expanded its focus out from the UN and now includes events such as the more fast-paced 'crisis' simulations, in which students role-play the individual

expectations for its 17th conference.

"JHUMUNC started 17 years ago. It was a small conference that was held in the Bloomberg building," Hewage said. "We had around 50 or 60 students."

He pinpointed 2011 as a key year of transformation for JHUMUNC, when the group changed its venue to the Renaissance Hotel by the Inner Harbor and gained greater national prestige as a conference.

"During my freshman year, the Secretaries-General did an immense registration drive; they invited almost all the high schools in the U.S.," Hewage said. "After so many schools came in we established a good reputation."

"We are in the top five largest conferences in the U.S.," Hewage said. "We are ranked as one of the top-tier high school conferences by *BestDelegate.com*."

In addition to overall attendance, Hewage stressed that other key features of

SEE JHUMUNC, PAGE A5

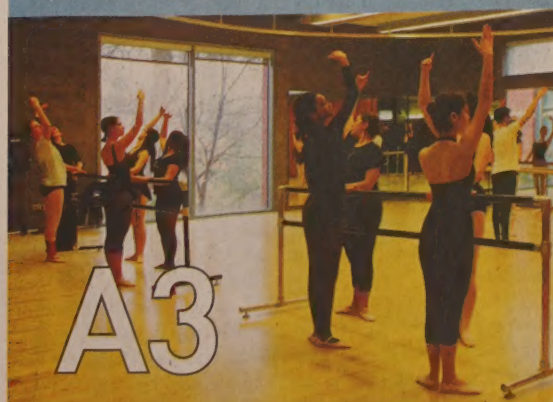
We are in the
top five largest
conferences in
the U.S.

—Secretary-General
Kithmina Hewage

cabinet ministers of a government as opposed to the UN ambassador of a country.

Much like the broader activity of MUN, JHUMUNC grew up from humble origins. On the Wednesday prior to the conference, Secretary-General Kithmina Hewage discussed the development of JHUMUNC and his ex-

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NEWS & FEATURES

SAIS Professor, China expert comes to speak at Homewood Campus

By SARI AMIEL
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Hopkins chapter of Global China Connection (GCC) hosted SAIS Professor David M. Lampton, an expert on U.S.-China relations, to discuss his recent book, *Following the Leader: Ruling China, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping*.

Joel Andreas, a professor of East Asian Studies, began by introducing Lampton. Lampton, the former dean of faculty at SAIS, is now the director of China Studies at SAIS. He was the president of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations from 1988 to 1997. Lampton has also written other books, including *The Three Faces of Chinese Power: Might, Mon-*

ey, and Minds, along with scholarly articles in a number of publications.

GCC members, other Hopkins students and members of the community came to hear Lampton speak. GCC is a non-profit international network, and the Hopkins chapter was founded in 2010. The Hopkins chapter has about 15 members who are active in the club's committees and has a list of other students that it invites to its events.

"The main focus [of GCC] is to build connections between the U.S. and China," sophomore Naomi Bouchard-Gordon, co-head of public relations, said. "There's lots of people in the club who are either from China or have family in China."

Over the past 40 years,

Lampton had been taking notes on speeches made by various Chinese leaders, including political figures, CEOs of multinational corporations and university professors. One chapter of his book contains quotes from Chinese officials about stress-related nightmares and sleeplessness, a common theme in Lampton's transcripts.

"I was sitting in my office one day...I was just wondering to myself, 'what, after all these years, is in these file drawers,'" Lampton said. "It's a random selection, so to speak, of leaders across the space and time of China."

Lampton said that China's national power is increasing at a steep rate. At first, the international community did not view China as a possible threat, but, recently, China's neighbors have increased military spending or sought closer ties with the U.S. in response to China's growth. Lampton believes that the U.S. and China are in a technological competition; China is responding to U.S. military developments by creating technologies that counteract them.

"The key problem we face is that both the US and China are using each other as their big power planning horizon for military development," Lampton said.

Lampton also discussed the Third Plenum of the 18th Party Congress, a Communist Party meeting in China that outlined economic reforms late last year.

"If China did do a substantial fraction of these things, it would prolong the period of high-speed economic growth for a decade or more," Lampton said.

After writing his book, Lampton has sympathy for Chinese leaders, who govern roughly 20 percent of the world's population and face both natural and man-made challenges.

"The life of a Chinese leader is punctuated by crises...at frequent and random intervals," Lampton said. "Fatalities run into the hundreds of thousands when things go wrong in China."

Additionally, Lampton said he would not want to be a Chinese leader because China has below-average per capita resources and because Chinese leaders are responsible for addressing policy disputes that could not be resolved at lower levels of government.

Lampton also talked about how China's political system has changed from the time of Mao Zedong to the present. Under Mao Zedong, China had a strong political leader and a homogenous society of primarily peasants. The country lacked resources, such as income and knowledge. Today, China's leaders are weaker, its society is more urban and differentiated and its resources have grown.

talk] was fantastic," sophomore and GCC-Hopkins President Anson Shen said. "It's very insightful...he has logic behind all his points, and he's able to draw out examples...supporting himself. I spoke to him after the talk and he's very approachable."

Shen first contacted Lampton last year, but due to his busy schedule, Lampton was unable to speak to GCC until last Monday. GCC advertised

opinion about the U.S.-China relationship, but not from a Chinese publisher...I can understand what the other side is thinking about."

Shen had expected the turnout for the speech to be slightly higher, while Bouchard-Gordon thought a decent number of people came.

"It's always a little bit stressful at Hopkins to get people to actually show up to things," Bouchard-Gordon said. "It was really

Bon Appétit rolls in changes to dining

By NATHAN BICK
Staff Writer

Bon Appétit Management Company, the dining provider for Hopkins, has made significant changes to some of the University's major dining options, specifically the Fresh Food Café (FFC), Nolan's on 33rd and Charles Street Market (Char Mar) for the new semester.

Char Mar, including the Stone Mill Bakery, has experienced changes both to its stock of goods as well as its hours of operations.

Notable product changes for Char Mar include

experienced much more noticeable changes, with Bon Appétit analyzing student habits as well as feedback and requests to inform their process.

"Hopkins Dining and Bon Appétit solicit feedback from multiple sources: The Housing & Dining Advisory Committee, The Resident Advisory Board (RAB), Meetings with Members of SGA, The RA's, specific dietary needs constituency meetings, the annual dining survey, comment and suggestions cards in each location, emails and general engagement with the students in the dining locations. In

We constantly add new products and ask that students continue to provide feedback.

— Norman Zwagil, Resident District Manager of Bon Appétit

"We constantly add new products and ask that students continue to provide feedback so that we can add to the product selection," Norman Zwagil, resident district manager of Bon Appétit, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

With the intention of expanding the Grab & Go options to better accommodate the hectic lives of Hopkins students, Bon Appétit originally chose to close the Deli at 5 p.m. However, the Deli now remains open until 7 p.m. serving custom sandwiches in response to negative student reactions.

Additional options at Char Mar are on the way, according to Mr. Zwagil, including a make-your-own waffle station with a toppings bar, a hot cereal station with toppings, nightly self-served hot entrée options and an infused iced tea and lemonade station.

Some students have not taken much notice to the modifications to Char Mar.

"The only change that I noticed was that row or aisle of more college friendly snacks," freshman Phoebe Roque said. "I go there once a week, I don't know."

Freshman Veronica Rear-don, who goes to Char Mar multiple times per week, agreed that she has not noticed many changes.

"I like to use it as a grocery store, I don't eat there that much," she said. "I'm a freshman, and like having food around in my room."

Nearby in Charles Commons, Nolan's has

addition, the dining staff share the immediate feedback from students who are guests in the dining halls. We also look at statistical data that infers shopping habits, hours that guests eat and overall usage of all parts of the dining program," Zwagil wrote.

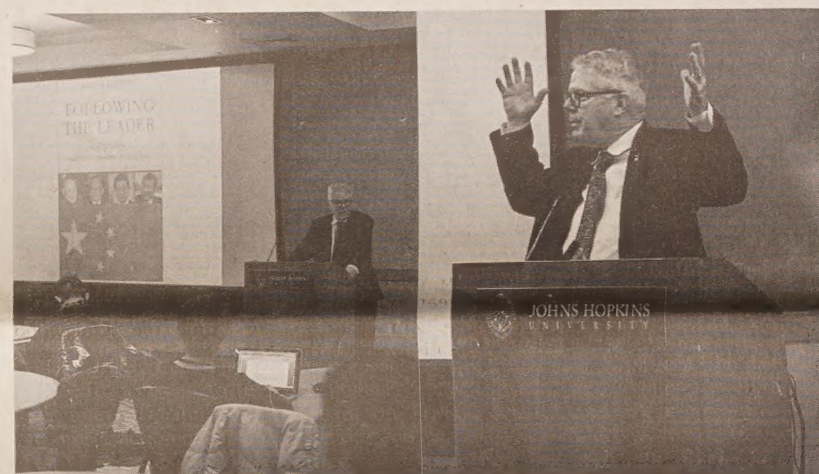
An effort has been made to tailor the experience to student desires by changing the offerings and the layout of Nolan's.

A "Wings Around the World" station offering sandwiches, wraps, salads and platters was introduced along with the "Blue Jay Special," a station which will adapt throughout the semester based partly on ideas submitted by students. The "Blue Jay Special" offers various homestyle 'comfort food' meals. Furthermore, the Noodles Station will now have traditional pastas twice per week, omelets twice and Asian-style noodles the three remaining days.

"One Bowl," the popular noodle station in Levering, will now also be available three nights a week at Nolan's.

The registers have been moved to the front of Nolan's with the intention of speeding up service by reducing the confusion of where to pay and where to order.

"This change has received mixed reviews and we hope to continue to assess and make changes for the better of the dining program at Nolan's," Zwagil wrote. "Just so your readers are aware, you do not have to order a meal when you walk in to Nolan's. This space is more than a dining room, it is a living room for Charles Commons and offers entertainment and gaming options to all students."



COURTESY OF ERIC CHEN

SAIS professor David Lampton gave a talk on campus about his most recent book *Following the Leader*.

"This radical change has created a problem within the leadership...it's becoming much more difficult to govern China," Lampton said. "It seems to me that the Chinese political system needs to change."

Lampton concluded by predicting that China's major challenge will be adjusting its domestic system of government to China's new, globalized society.

"I think [Lampton's

the event online, as well as through posters, tabling and flyers. Freshman Jerry Ji, who is not a member of GCC, found out about it on Facebook.

"I [went] there because...I'm from China, and I'm pretty interested in how the relationship between the U.S. and China will become," Ji said. "It was very informative, and it was actually pretty inspiring to some extent to listen to someone's

exciting to have somebody as prominent in the field as [Lampton] is. When you consider that, you wish more people would come."

GCC generally hosts speakers and organizes cultural events, such as a Chinese New Year celebration. This spring, the Hopkins and George Washington University GCC chapters are planning to host a conference on environmental issues in China.

Black History Month at Hopkins commences

By ALEXIS SEARS
Staff Writer

With events co-sponsored by a variety of student organizations, Black History Month at Hopkins has gotten underway. The theme for this year's Black History Month celebration, which was organized by the Hopkins Black History Month Committee, is "Beyond Blackness: Local to Global."

The Hopkins Black History Month Committee kicked off the festivities on Jan. 31 with an opening ceremony held in Charles Commons. Subsequent events included the MLK Keynote with Marc Lamont Hill held on Feb. 5, an open mic competition entitled "Soul Sounds" and "Platanos and Collards," a discussion about Latina and African American cuisine, both held last Saturday.

The chairs of the Black History Month Committee are junior Georges Quist, senior Chantel Fletcher and senior Michelle Lam-part. The committee began

planning the events in September. To execute their plans for the month, the committee pooled resources from organizations such as the Black Student Union, the African Students Association, the Caribbean Culture Society, the Dunbar-Baldwin-Hughes Theater Company and the Men of Color Hopkins Alliance (MOCHA).

"The purpose of Black History Month is to educate Hopkins about black history, black culture," Quist said. "For non-blacks, it's a way to understand what black culture is...to avert stereotypes and generalizations."

Soul Sounds, last Saturday's open mic competition held at Nolan's on 33rd, featured singing, rap and spoken word poetry.

Junior Sinmidele Badero won first place, a \$100 gift card, for her rendition of Corinne Bailey Rae's "Like a Star." Badero, who was a member of her high school choir and a cappella group, also performed in the Dunbar-Baldwin-Hughes Theater Company's "Cabaret" last year.

First and second place prizes were awarded to sophomore Teddy Jackson, who performed an original rap, and sophomore Suleiman Abiola, who performed an original spoken word poem, respectively.

Candace Brock, lead cook at Nolan's, also took the stage last Saturday, performing her rendition of Lauryn Hill's "Killing Me Softly." Brock, who has been singing since age two and playing piano and cello since age 12, auditioned for the television show "The Voice" in Philadelphia in January.

"It's important to know where you come from... a lot of people don't know that a lot of the history that they teach us is what they want us to know about black history," Brock said.

Badero agreed with that statement.

"Things get swept under the carpet and people forget what African Americans have had to go through, so it's really important that we have Black History Month so we can sit back and remember

how far we've come and how much further we have to go. We can remember where we came from, why we're here, and we can educate people," she said.

Badero also believes that there should be more diversity in the Hopkins community.

"When you're at such a big university like Hopkins that represents the world, shouldn't our faculty and our administration reflect that?...but we do need to strive to do better because at top universities it's not like this," she said.

Upcoming events include the third annual MOCHA reception and dinner on Feb. 15, "Our Side of the Story" on Feb. 16, "The Color of Faith" on Feb. 20, "Hidden Histories" on Feb. 23, "My Siblings Keeper" on Feb. 25, "50 Shades of Black" on Feb. 27 as well as the Dunbar-Baldwin-Hughes Theater Company's Cabaret on Feb. 28. Finally, this year's Black History Month at Hopkins will come to an end with a closing ceremony on Feb. 28.

NEWS & FEATURES

Students push awareness of stroke by wearing red

By GULNAR TULI
Staff Writer

This past Friday was National Wear Red Day, a countrywide campaign to promote stroke awareness. HASA, the Hopkins Association for Stroke Awareness, encouraged students to participate in the event by passing out fliers and giveaways on the Breezeway.

According to Trisha Lala, HASA's advertising chair, the American Heart Association played a large role in bringing National Wear Red Day to Hopkins.

"We are fortunate to have the support of the American Heart Association for our group. They provide us with an endless amount of resources, strategies, and goodies to give out for our events," Lala wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

In addition to handing out informational fliers related to heart health, HASA supported the event through social media. Students who wore red were encouraged to post a picture of themselves to HASA's Facebook page, which would then make them eligible for a contest.

Wear Red Day is an attempt to bring the issue of stroke prevention to light, according to Carolyn Zin, co-president of HASA.

"We focus on prevention. Stroke is the fourth leading cause of death in the US, and many people who are at risk for stroke are uninformed about the ways that they can prevent it. By participating in Wear Red Day, we not only advocate to fight heart disease but stroke as well," Zin wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Lala has a personal connection to the issue of stroke prevention.

"I have been working with stroke patients at the medical campus since my freshman year. Speaking to the patients really showed me that they lack awareness of preventative measures they can take, and avoid that scary trip to the hospital," she wrote.

Statistics on strokes show that it is a significant issue.

"Around 800,000 people in the U.S. have a new or recurrent stroke each year, according to the AHA, so it certainly is a condition we should be targeting. Moreover, a stroke can result in brain damage that a patient may not be able to recover from," Lala wrote.

Supporting National Wear Red Day is one of a few ways HASA is promoting stroke awareness.

"We have cooking demonstrations on campus. Additionally, we work in the stroke ward at the medical campus, speaking with patients who have recently suffered from a stroke and supply them with information about preventing one another from occurring," Lala wrote.

HASA also tries to engage the larger Baltimore community.

"We branch out into the Baltimore community and attend health fairs, where we give out our heart-healthy pamphlets, detailing easy lifestyle changes for stroke prevention and conduct blood-pressure screenings on child and adults of our community," Lala wrote.

HASA promoted Wear Red Day through use of the Daily Announcements and Facebook. They do not know how many people

We are fortunate to have the support of the American Heart Association for our group.

—HASA ADVERTISING CHAIR TRISHA LALA

wore red, but according to Lala, they were satisfied with their spot on the Breezeway, where they were able to give out their promotional materials to many students.

"As the first time participating in National Wear Red Day, we had a great basis for future years. Many people participated in the event, and we can't wait for next year to expand it even more," Zin wrote.

Zin is satisfied with the impact that Wear Red Day had on campus, and hopes in the future to reach out to the larger Baltimore community as well.

"Many people that did not know about Wear Red Day visited our table to learn more about our mission. We hope to expand our event next year to not only a greater population of the Hopkins community but also to the Baltimore community," Zin wrote.

Lala feels the Hopkins community was very receptive to HASA's efforts to promote stroke awareness.

"The Hopkins community is great because they are open to anything! We do think that we were able to make an impression on our fellow students and promote stroke prevention," she wrote.

Though this is the first year that Hopkins participated in Wear Red Day, and, according to Zin, it will not be the last. Both Zin and Lala agreed that the event was a success.

"Our National Wear Red Day was definitely a success. While promoting living a healthier lifestyle and supporting the effort to fight heart disease, we helped spread awareness about the mission of our organization," Zin wrote.

Class explores new wave of global protests

By TAMUZ AVIVI
For *The News-Letter*

The University is offering for the first time a new class called "Global Social Change and Development Research Practicum," which will allow undergraduate students to participate in an ongoing research project by the Department of Sociology.

The students taking the class will be assisting the Global Social Protest Research Working Group, which is part of the interdisciplinary Arrighi Center for Global Studies, in its study and analysis of recent surges of civil strife around the world.

"Eventually in the class, our goal is to produce a research grant for the National Science Foundation," Professor Beverly J. Silver, who is teaching the class this semester, said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

According to Silver, a professor in the Department of Sociology, the research students will be working on is being conducted by faculty members as well as graduate students in the Arrighi Center. It builds on research that Silver previously conducted in the 1980s and 1990s.

"I had been gathering a collection of labor unrest events from newspapers around the world from 1870 to 1996 but then it got

very quiet, so for various reasons I stopped doing the data collection, but I kept saying when it gets to the point when something starts happening I'll start up again," Silver, whose work largely focuses on patterns of social turmoil, explained.

That point turned out to be in 2011, a tumultuous year which brought with it international waves of social uprisings, as millions, from Wall Street to the Middle East, took their frustration to the streets.

The purpose of the research in its current form is to shed light on the causes of the uprisings and thus potentially predict when and where incidents of civil unrest may resurface. To do so, according to Silver, requires not only a close examination of the recent protest events, but also a comparison between the present wave of global social unrest and major waves of global social unrest in past centuries.

"By trying to understand what the demands being raised up by these [protest] movements, we can see certain pattern emerging," Silver said. "That begins to give us a lens on what kind of impasses are we heading for, socially, politically, globally and what kind of solutions might be wanted or needed."

According to Silver, the

class is an interim stage in a series of classes designed to help students gain the research skills required for the new Global Social Change and Development Track (GSCD), which is a research-oriented program allowing students to double major in Sociology and International Studies.

The class, which is part of the track's curriculum, is designed for students who have already mastered some basic research skills, but who also have a desire to advance those skills. The students are currently being exposed to the theoretical concepts related to the project, and throughout the semester will become more involved with research design, proposal writing and data collection.

Not surprisingly, one of the goals of the class is to help students who wish to get involved in the research of the Arrighi Center develop the necessary skills. Established in 2012, the center, which focuses on international social issues resulting from globalization, has already seen several attempts to integrate undergraduate students in its research groups. No previous attempt however, has been as systematic as the current one.

"In the class the students learn how to become members of the research

team," Professor Sahar Savas Karatasli, who is the co-coordinator of the Global Social Protest Research Working Group research, explained. "It's real. It's not about the grade."

The undergraduate students participating in the research through the class also agree as to the importance of the work being done, and said they receive satisfaction from their efforts.

"The class is increasingly motivating as we will get to contribute more and more to the research, and see our knowledge put to good use and our contributions making a difference," sophomore Naomi Bouchard-Gordon, who is taking the class this semester, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"It is a valuable opportunity to get to know Hopkins professors very well and contribute to real, ongoing research," she added.

Only a few weeks have passed since the beginning of the semester, but the initial results indicate that from the point of view of the faculty, the sense of benefit seems to be mutual.

"The students are getting out of it [the class] a serious formal professional level of research experience and we are getting out of it their insights," Silver said.

Students sign up for modern dance and ballet offerings

By RACHEL BECKER
Staff Writer

This semester, for the first time, the Homewood Arts Programs is offering free, semester long, non-credit courses in both contemporary modern dance and ballet. Both classes utilize the Caplan Studio in the Matin Center.

The ballet classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, while the modern dance classes take place on Wednesday and Friday. Both the modern dance and ballet classes are open to all students affiliated with the University, with priority given to undergraduates.

In addition to the teachers, Marilyn Byers and Lisa Green-Cudek, members of the Modern Dance and Ballet Companies assist in facilitating the classes.

The mixed-level classes are a way for students to either try dance for the first time or pick it up at any level. Upper level classes are taught by students on Tuesday and Thursdays evenings.

There are currently 18 dance groups on campus, and all but the Modern Dance Company are student-run.

Byers has been at Hopkins since 1981. She currently serves as the artistic director of modern dance and runs the Modern Dance Company. Green-Cudek has been at Hopkins for seven years and is also on the faculty of the Peabody Conservatory, as well as nearby Loyola University.

In the past, the largest challenges force dance groups at Hopkins included a lack of adequate studio space and finances. However, this has since changed under the leadership of Eric Beatty, who joined the University as the director of the Homewood Arts Programs in 2000.

The Caplan studio is about 10 years old. Before, dancers performed in any available space on campus, including the Glass Pavilion and the Great Hall in Levering Hall.

"This is a beautiful, wonderful facility," Green-Cudek said of the Caplan

Studio.

Two alumni put together a grant to make the classes free for students affiliated with the University.

"President Daniels has recognized the importance of the arts here at Hopkins. He set aside some money for us, and we are very thankful," Byers said.



IVANA SU/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Students are taking advantage of expanded dance and ballet programs.

Last year, Beatty appropriated funds for a possible two-level class structure. This would allow for Byers and Green-Cudek to tailor their teaching to the level of their students.

There is currently no major or minor in dance offered at Hopkins. Green-Cudek is working on a proposal that would incorporate the history of dance, dance culture and studio time.

The co-presidents of the Modern Dance Company, Michelle Ploch and Emelie Modalen, and President of the Ballet Company Sarah Goodman stressed the importance of dance.

"I would say the best part about dancing at Hopkins is the opportunity to leave all of your stresses at the door and to do something for the pure fun of it. I think that dancing allows students to enter into a world of wonder and imagination where they can relax and just enjoy watching a story unfold," Goodman said.

"Dance is more than an exercise or physical facility. It is a different kind of thinking that encourages people to see outside the box," Ploch said.

The class philosophy

says to leave any and all judgmental voices at the door. Students should be forgiving of themselves and not try to force change.

"Dance is an opportunity to fail without being penalized or criticized," Modalen said.

"My favorite part is that it is something I've never gotten to do before, and the

Green-Cudek began dancing at age 12 after seeing the Australian Ballet perform in Baltimore. This is considered late, to start classical training, but she went on to study at the Washington School of Ballet before going on to teach nevertheless.

Byers' parents were religiously opposed to dance, so she became a dance major in college without any previous experience.

Both teachers stressed that students of all levels and abilities are welcome in class.

There are more options for dance at Hopkins besides Ballet and Modern. There is significant overlap between the 18 groups on campus, which include the Lady Birds, JOSH Fusion Dance and Shakti.

"There is a real appetite on campus to be in the body, to be in the flow," Green-Cudek said.

Many of the concerts on campus are collaborative efforts between multiple groups.

There is a choreographer's showcase coming up on March 29 at Peabody and a Modern Dance Company performance on April 5.



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COURTESY OF CAROLYN ZIN

Carolyn Zin and Trisha Lala gave out fliers for National Wear Red Day.

NEWS & FEATURES

University to offer coed on-campus housing in fall

DORMS, FROM A1

group. However, rooms themselves are still designated as single-sex. This policy will allow students who are not of the same legal sex to be assigned to the same room, creating a gender inclusive unit.

Gender inclusive housing was an idea brought up three years ago through the Housing Advisory Board by a group of students who contended that gender-inclusive housing was an option at other schools.

"We have, particularly this past Fall, [done] a lot of research on our peer institutions, and we got information from other schools about whether they have gender inclusive or gender neutral housing, and what we found is that more and more schools are having this situation," Tracey Angel, the director of Housing and Operations, said.

According to the policy, should a space open in a gender inclusive housing unit, the students in the unit will find a student to fill the space. If not, the University will try to do so. If this is unsuccessful, then the unit may need to return to single legal sex.

Students have viewed this change in policy posi-

tively.

"It's personal choice. If you want to room with the opposite gender, you should be able to," freshman Annie Hou said.

Freshman Christine Fei agreed.

"It's a good idea for people who don't conform to traditional gender identities," Fei said. "I feel this is a really good way for people to get into a housing situation they are comfortable with. It's a step in the right direction."

Though students will be allowed to choose which ever housing arrangement they are more comfortable with, students are strongly discouraged from rooming with their significant others.

"The only problem I can think of is if couples live together," freshman Alisha Kardian said. "But it makes sense to do. We're all adults here."

Angel also expressed excitement towards the new policy.

"It's a learning experience. We've developed a policy and we're going to work with it for next year and see how it goes, and if we need to do more as we move forward, we will," Angel said. "I think this will be a real enhancement in terms of our housing program."

New Robotics Club receives warm welcome

By JESSICA KIM COHEN
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, over 100 students gathered in Hackerman Hall for the first ever Hopkins Robotics Club meeting. Surprised but excited by the large turnout, the club's executive board members have already had to change their course of action.

"Our original idea was to enter a competition where a robot needs to find its way through a maze, which normally isn't that difficult, but in this case you have to do a complicated algorithm. However, we now have a lot more people than we were expecting, so we've scrapped that. It's hard to compete with that many people," sophomore Max Yelsky, president of the Hopkins Robotics Club, said.

Instead, the executive board is planning to do more teaching this first semester, focusing on building a foundation of knowledge before veering into more challenging territory next year in the fall. This will include teaching new members about circuits, modeling in 3-D and programming robots.

Many of the new members were also surprised by the number of students wishing to become involved.

"The topic is interesting, but it's definitely going to be hard to keep the club structured with a group this big. I was expecting like 10 people, and I think most people were too," freshman Joe Peine said.

Others noted the benefits of having such a large group.

"Since there are so many members, I'd like us to get the opportunity to split up into groups based on our interests, and work on our own projects in those groups," freshman Josh Gilbert said.

Due to the number of students that attended the first meeting, the Hopkins Robotics Club held two sections for their second meeting, in an effort to allow as many interested people to attend as possible. Somewhere between 30 and 40 students attended each meeting.

Primarily consisting of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and computer science majors, the group has a range of skill levels. About half of the group has some experience building or working with robots, while the other half has no previous experience.

To accommodate different skillsets and levels of experience, the group will continue to hold two meetings per week. One meeting group will focus primarily on programming and the other group will focus on circuits. Next month, the club will begin learning about the mechanics of robotics and start building in small groups.

"With so many people, holding one meeting where everyone learns everything can be boring. We decided to hold separate meetings, so people can choose to attend the ones they're interested in," Yelsky said.

Members of the executive board started the Hopkins Robotics Club last semester after recognizing that there was not an established robotics interest group at Hopkins.

"Robotics is prevalent among engineering schools, so it was definitely something we wanted to take part in," Yelsky said.

Due to the cost of robotics supplies and the larger number of students expressing interest in the group, funding became one of the major concerns for the group's executive



BRETT BRODSKY / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The first meeting for the Robotics Club attracted over 100 enthusiastic students interested in joining.

board. "We are hoping to get really basic controllers and a small body of a robot, and [to] get about 10 of these, so that groups of people can make their own robot. But just to buy these would be about \$700 to \$800, and that doesn't even consider the miscellaneous stuff we'll need. So already, that adds up to about \$1,000," Yelsky said.

Though the Hopkins Robotics Club was approved by the Student Government Association (SGA) last semester, they are not eligible for funding until next year.

"While our finances depend on what project we're doing, there's no way to avoid money in robotics," sophomore Elliott Binder, vice president of the Hopkins Robotics Club, said.

To account for this, the group has reached out to and received funding from, different academic departments, including electrical engineering and computer science.

"Assuming we have about \$5,000, which is a lot for a group that literally started right now, we want to buy some robots for everyone to work on and also buy something as a bigger project for the club," Yelsky said.

While the Hopkins Robotics Club is the only robotics group currently active at the University, it is actually the third iteration of a similar club on campus. The most recent group, called Hopkins Robotics, was active from 2009-2010. Unlike the JHU Robotics Club, Hopkins Robotics was much smaller and more focused on competitions.

"I think they drove to D.C. and did some competitions there, but I guess it didn't stick around as a group. All of the other schools that had robotics clubs have been doing it for years, so they had a base and knew what they were doing," Binder explained.

New members were highly enthusiastic to see the Hopkins Robotics Club on campus and were thankful that the group is beginning with basic information, rather than diving straight to competitions.

"I wanted to be involved in something that used programming, and I think the idea of robots is cool. I'm also a computer science major, so it goes along with that. It seems really interesting, and it's nice that everyone is relatively inexperienced," sophomore Imoni McCorvey said.

The new club members are very optimistic for the future of their group on campus.

"At this point, if members stay interested in us, it's the more the merrier. But even if some decide to leave, less people can be easier to deal with and to teach, so there's no real losing now," Yelsky said.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL NAKAN

Phi Kappa Psi irritated the administration for featuring alcohol.

"Wolf of Phi Psi" parody video goes viral on web

PHI PSI, FROM A1

it definitely makes Hopkins look less nerdy to the rest of the world," junior Nicole Babaknia said.

Likewise, junior Harmeet Dhillon highly appreciated the light in which the video has cast Hopkins.

"I thought it was a good depiction of the fun side of Hopkins, [showing] that not everyone here is a nerd," he said.

Hopkins administrators have not reacted in the same

Drennen elaborated on her distress, expressing that she considers the video to have been created explicitly for rush week, in which case the "Wolf of Phi Psi" trailer would have violated previously laid-out rules of the rush period.

"I wish our community would celebrate videos which were executed in good taste with no references to alcohol and promoted organizational values," she wrote. "It is highly disap-

pointing to me that Phi Kappa Psi understood the stipulations for creating a recruitment video... and then blatantly disregarded the [rules]."

Poholek denied the film's association with

rush.

"It was simply a labor of love," he wrote. "We never intended to paint Greek Life negatively and hope all viewers realize that the video is paradoxical and is not an accurate depiction of our chapter or Greek Life as a whole."

Despite the administration's unfavorable reaction, Phi Psi is excited about the trailer's popularity.

"To quote Dick Mackleroy [the video's protagonist], 'We're making a name for ourselves,'" Poholek wrote.

"If this is what the

Hopkins student population values about fraternities and sororities, then we have a lot of work to do to change the culture," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Current President of Phi Psi Ryan Poholek felt quite differently toward the trailer.

"We are all very excited. It's not every day your fraternity goes viral," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I think... people will be paying more attention to Phi Psi moving forward," he said.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Model United Nations Conference draws highest participation yet

JHUMUNC, FROM A1
The conference were the diversity and number of its simulations. Increasing the number of these committees alongside total attendance was aimed at both growing the participation of the high school students and improving their conference experience.

"Even though our total numbers have increased, our delegates-to-committee ratio has dropped since last year," Hewage said.

The diversity of simulations run by JHUMUNC XVII was evidenced by the conference's extensive committee list. The list included General Assemblies and other MUN staples, such as a simulation of an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting, albeit set 10 years in a hypothetical future. However, the conference also ran more elaborate and unorthodox simulations. Among these was the Quadrumvirate, a crisis simulation set in Feudal Japan comprised of four rival committees which wrestled one another for dominance of the islands.

Despite having moved from the Renaissance to the Hilton, Secretary-General Hewage stated that the JHUMUNC budget did not rely on external sponsorship.

"Our budget is mostly dependent on registration fees," Hewage said. "We don't get sponsorship from elsewhere."

With 84 participating high schools and the lowest school registration fee at \$60, plus the lowest additional fees of \$60 per high school student, the attendance of JHUMUNC XVII would have given the organizers a theoretical minimum of \$105,840 to work with. The actual budget was undoubtedly higher given that fees increased depending on how late schools registered for the conference.

Hewage expressed great confidence in the ability of JHUMUNC's staff but nonetheless anticipated that some aspects of the conference would prove difficult.

"One of the biggest challenges given the size of the conference is security," Hewage said. "1600 high schoolers itself is a daunting task."

However, on the final day of JHUMUNC, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Schlecht commented on the success of the conference's security team.

"We had no security incidents," Schlecht said, adding later that the only two noise complaints they received ended up having nothing to do with the participating high school students.

The ultimate responses of said students were positive across the board. Shashank Narayan, a student from Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD, had good things to say about his first time participating in MUN.

"It's been a really good experience," Narayan said. "Me and my friends had a pretty great time, we'll probably talk about this for some time."

The veteran participants also displayed a generally favorable attitude. Sami Berg, a student from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, N.J., had attended other conferences prior to JHUMUNC but nonetheless found the Hopkins conference to be fairly inspiring.

"I think it's really cool," Berg said. "After seeing the staff I would like to join the staff at a college MUN conference."

For Timur Guler, a student from the Gilman School in Baltimore, Md., this year's JHUMUNC

marked his third consecutive participation in a conference hosted by the organization, yet his views on JHUMUNC as a conference were clear.

"I really liked this conference better than the other ones," Guler said. "Everyone says that this one [JHUMUNC] is by far the better one."

Not every review was a shining one however. Despite generally complimentary comments, Narayan mentioned that, as a first-time participant in MUN, he felt frustrated when those responsible for running his committee failed to stop novice delegates from being marginalized.

"The first couple of sessions were great. . . but then later what happened was around five experienced delegates got together and started doing everything themselves. A lot of us didn't feel like we were in the loop," Narayan said.

In addition to the high school students, the various Faculty Advisors (FAs) which chaperoned their respective students to the conference also commended the performance of the JHUMUNC staff. At the FA feedback session on Sunday, words of praise for the conference organizers dominated over suggestions for improvement. Ken Kubistek, the FA for Riverview High School in Oakmont, Pa., commented on the success of JHUMUNC XVII.

"I was worried about the size, but they were

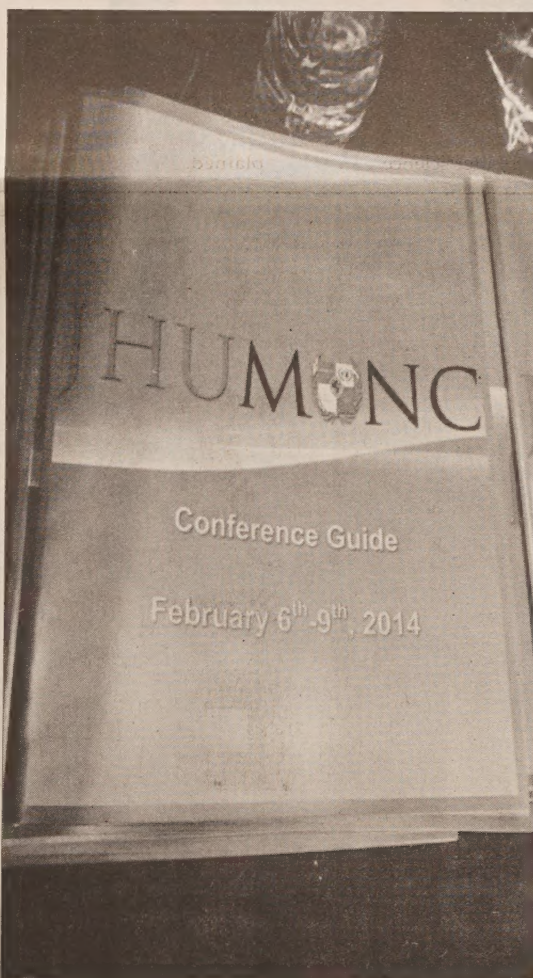


Hopkins students working as staff at the 17th annual Johns Hopkins Model United Nations Conference pose for a picture with a gavel.

able to control and organize 2,000 students [high school students plus JHUMUNC staff] which was overly impressive," Kubistek said. "I've been to smaller conferences of about 1,000 students and they were not nearly as well organized."

All in all, JHUMUNC has raised the bar for its performance to new heights. The organization is cognizant of the situation and expressed a desire to consolidate its successes rather than expand its attendance.

"What we will focus on now is specializing in quality," Hewage said. "If we have more staff and recruitment, we can always increase the quality of the conference."



Conference guides helped the participants navigate the four-day event.

Daniels' salary proves to be orthodox in field

SALARY, FROM A1

earned significantly more. The Chronicle's list included several different aspects of compensation, including base salary and bonus pay, as well as insurance and other miscellaneous expenses.

The statistics also included deferred compensation, which is money set aside to be paid out in the future, typically upon retirement.

Deferred compensation is reported to the IRS twice — both in the year it is set aside and in the year it is paid out.

Daniels' base salary in 2011 was \$859,555, and he set aside \$105,019

in deferred compensation. He received no bonus pay and \$219,961 in nontaxable benefits.

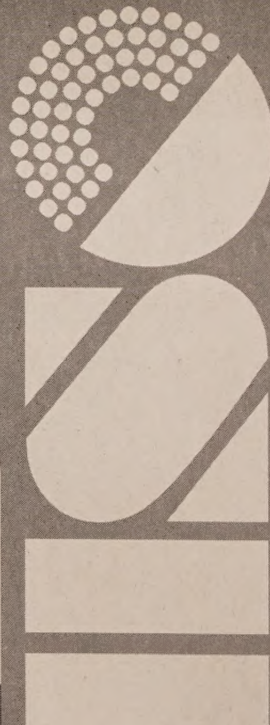
Comparatively, Zimmer set aside \$454,800 for deferred compensation and earned \$200,000 in bonus pay.

Aronson said that the Board of Trustees is very pleased with Daniels' job performance thus far. The Board unanimously voted last month to extend Daniels' contract until 2019.

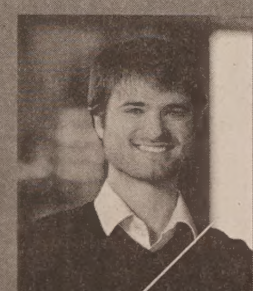
"His drive, intellect and vision are everything that Hopkins needs," Aronson said. "He's fulfilled all of his [promises] plus some."



Students cheer the opening of the Johns Hopkins University 2014 Model United Nations Conference.



Stephen Mulligan,
Conductor



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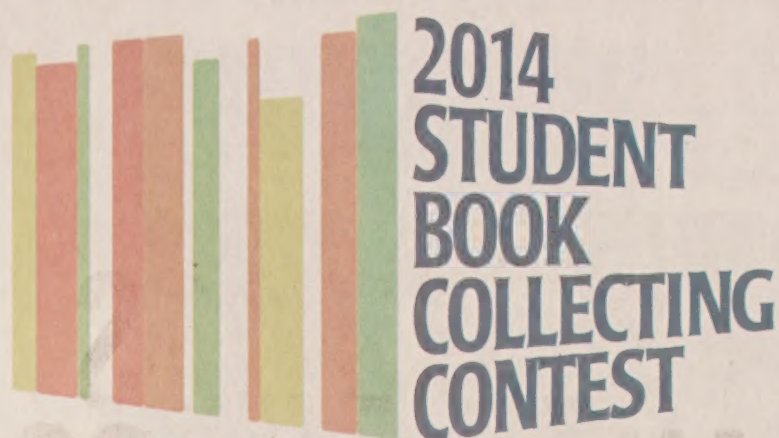
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Commemoration Day



Commemoration Ball

Engineer's Club / 9 PM / Monday, February 24



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Glass Pavilion / 12 - 2 PM / Friday, February 21

HIP HOP

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How to survive Sochi, Flappy Bird guilt and Recruitment Week

Retweeted by Sochi Problems



Meryl°Evens° @merylevens · Feb 7

YOU HAD ONE JOB #SochiOpeningCeremony @sochiproblems #openingceremony pic.twitter.com/7MS5duuuHU



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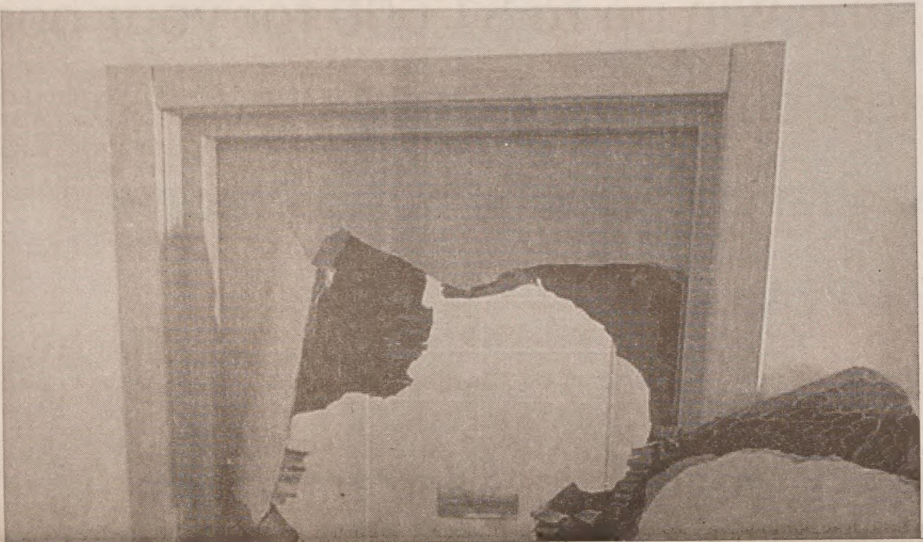
More

This was one of the most talked about parts of the Olympics Opening Ceremonies (maybe besides the Russian police choir singing "Get Lucky"). Look, the Olympics are a big deal. That sixth ring just probably got a little stage fright.




Johnny Quinn @JohnnyQuinnUSA · Feb 8

...With no phone to call for help, I used my bobsled push training to break out. #SochiJailBreak pic.twitter.com/apZRefgvCO



U.S. bobsledder Johnny Quinn was trapped in a terrifying Sochi bathroom, but at least he has a sense of humor about it. He also got trapped in an elevator a few days later because of course he did. But at least he wasn't the athlete whose elevator doors opened into an empty elevator shaft.



Dong Nguyen @dongatory · Feb 8

I am sorry 'Flappy Bird' users, 22 hours from now, I will take 'Flappy Bird' down. I cannot take this anymore.

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If you missed this, then you probably live under a rock. But you also probably have a life. Basically, everyone started playing Flappy Bird this weekend, and the game's creator freaked out and took the game off of the App store because he thought people were getting too addicted. And now no one will stop talking about it.



devin alessio @devinissima · Feb 8

Calories don't count during recruitment week, right? RIGHT?!?!?!?

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Snap to all of those girls who survived Recruitment Week. I'm not in a sorority, but if I had to spend an entire week talking to freshmen I would use it as an excuse for pretty much everything. Though I'm always able find an excuse to eat more.

Want your Tweets featured in this column? Follow me @rachel_witkin or add #jhutweets to the tweets you want me to look at. I'm going to try to feature a different student and represent Hopkins on Twitter (that is, when I'm not distracted by celebrity Twitter).

BASED SAVIOR @TheWhiteEmoji

Beyoncé and Obama are the new Marilyn Monroe and JFK



The French tabloids have decided that Obama and Beyoncé are having an affair — because apparently they're not entertained enough by the President's love life.

@rachel_witkin
Tweets of the Week

This weekly column features some of the top posts around the Twitter realm that deal with the week's top stories in sports, politics, pop culture and all things news.

Finding satisfaction in spirituality

There are times when I ask myself, what is the point of everything I'm doing? What is the end goal? Do I even have an end goal?

This leads me to wonder about the things that bring me true joy and satisfaction in life. Sure, public health is a great field, but will it sustain me? Will it make me feel complete inside?

Then I begin to consider my body versus my soul, or my brain versus my mind. Yes, food and water keep me going and the thought of being a public health practitioner is exciting. Even so, I find that when I don't nourish my soul, I feel empty inside. The truth is that the body is nothing without the essence of the soul and spirit. It is important to nourish both. This can be done in many ways.

First comes prayer and/or meditation. While thinking about the deeper meaning of life and the more abstract aspects of life can be confusing, it is worthwhile to muse over these topics. What good does it do to pass through this world and to not even wonder about the deeper meaning of life? I feel that this limited frame of mind greatly impedes the realization of a person's potential. Prayer and meditation also help to ease the mind. When the mind is relaxed, the body is also relaxed. This can help lower stress levels. Also, a state of relaxation helps to bring peace within. Who doesn't want peace? I am an avid fan of incense as a meditation tool; I have incense sticks from all over the world. Each fragrance takes me to a different place and world in my head. I love meditating while burning incense because it activates all of my senses while relaxing my body and mind.

Next comes worship. Worship can come in the form of uplifting music. Music can make or break you. Sometimes we don't even realize how the music we listen to affects us. There's something about melodies and beats, and the way they penetrate the human heart, body, mind, and soul. Ever noticed how quickly your mood can change once you hear a specific song? A song can make or break your day. Try listening to more uplifting music and see how your demeanor changes. I like listening to gospel artists like Israel Houghton and MaryMary, and I love the lyricist Lauryn Hill. Their lyrics encourage me to think beyond the superficial aspects of life.

Last is the Word. Encouraging texts can be a great start to your week or day. A lot of times they can bring inspiration for your next prayer/meditation session. Literature can also increase your personal knowledge of the things that satisfy you on the inside. Texts can also help guide you with deeper life decisions. It's one thing to decide which graduate program to apply to, but it's another thing to muse about something much deeper, like the reason why you choose to love. Personally, I enjoy reading the psalms and proverbs in the Bible. Regardless of your faith, these scriptures apply to any situation and are generally good guidelines for life. It would benefit you to expand your horizon if you have yet to experience the messages within the Bible.

With that said, I hope you remember to nourish your soul as well as your body, for both are important for your mental health and well-being.

COURTESY OF SANDRA MARS VIA FLICKR
Meditating can help you find the answers to the deeper questions in life.

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, rants, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and, of course, sex.

DANNIJO brings fierce femininity to NYFW

As New York Fashion Week Fall 2014 made its highly anticipated visit this past week, we were expectedly delighted by the sights of Jill Stuart's funky interpretations of the little black dress, Ruffian's tapestry-printed dresses and ruffled collars (inspired by Petrus Christus' 15th century portraits), and Rebecca Taylor's

Chelsea Olivera
Femme Fatale

der, harnessed the artistic spirit and creative ingenuity absent in most of the clothing collections this past week, within their DANNIJO Fall/Winter 2014 jewelry collection. The sister duo—known for their intricate industrial-style designs, skillful use of different metals and brilliant combinations of stones and gems—created a collection that not only retained their distinctive



BEAUTY BLITZ VIA FLICKR
These dangerous yet dainty pieces showcase DANNIJO's theme.

assemblage of minimalist menswear-inspired pieces. But although we adored Christian Siriano's elegant modern collection inspired by 1950s glamour and Alexander Wang's structured monochrome wool mini dresses, can we really say we were artistically stimulated, or even surprised by each designer's choice of inspiration and consequent execution of his designs? Would it really have been that difficult to anticipate that Siriano would choose to design a collection inspired by classic femininity à la Dior circa 1957, while Wang would focus on rendering the austere minimalism that contributed so highly to his popularity last NYFW?

While designers must stay faithful to the distinctive images and philosophies guiding their brands, frankly, it seems as though the element of surprise has been completely missing from this season's clothing collections thus far. After all, it is the element of novelty that perpetuates sales in the fashion industry and, more importantly, our creative attachments to certain brands.

Luckily, the burgeoning jewelry designers, Danielle and Jodie Snyder, have

binning elements from two seemingly paradoxical ways of moving the body—gracefully and fiercely—this concept was taken even further through the presentation of the pieces. The collection debuted with seven ballerinas performing a choreographed piece by Nicola Curry from the American Ballet Theatre. The ballerinas, wearing simple nude tutus with DANNIJO's highly embellished jewelry, softly danced around a boxing ring amidst a dimly lit venue.

The relationship between the refined femininity of the dancers in motion, and the visually absent notion of savage boxers in motion created the setting for our interesting creative speculations involving serious analyses of the emotional attachments and the intellectual associations we make to these two opposing ideas. And because the specific design elements and mediums associated with each concept were flawlessly integrated into flowing composites of aesthetically pleas-

ing pieces of jewelry, our ideas of the relationship between ballet and boxing were challenged even further by posing that these two ideas are somehow more interrelated than we'd imagined.

Essentially, showcasing the DANNIJO F/W 2014 collection through performance art visually enhanced the connection between ballet and boxing embedded into the designs themselves. More importantly, it situated a separate art form, alongside the jewelry, which was able to underscore the emotional performance, paralleling the emotionally charged sources of inspiration guiding the jewelry designs in the first place.

It is this kind of artistically sophisticated means of presenting art that made the DANNIJO F/W 2014 collection truly unique among a sea of predictable and orthodox clothing collections this past week. After all, if fashion is art, then is there really a limit to how far designers can go in expressing their artistic message?

In memoriam:
J Dilla

Paying tribute to the influential rapper/producer

Last Friday, February 7, would have been J Dilla's 40th birthday.

Despite his unfortunate death back in 2006, J Dilla is still considered to be one of the most influential hip-hop producers, from his start in the 90s up until his passing. Not only has he influenced hip-hop

successor to his group, A Tribe Called Quest.

By this point, J Dilla was considered a major hip-hop prospect and had a slew of single and remix projects with Busta Rhymes, Janet Jackson, Pharcyde, De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, Q-Tip and many others. In 2000,

Alex Hurowitz
Music Rx

Slum Village made their major label debut with *Fantastic, Vol. 2*, which created a larger following for J Dilla. His much lauded production work, especially on this album, marked what would be the direction that would be taken by the neo soul genre.

He has had a huge influence on the newest generation of jazz musicians signed at Blue Note Records, including pianist Robert Glasper and bassist Derrick Hodge. The UK garage duo Disclosure cites him as a major influence, even sampling him in their song "Grab Her" off their debut LP, *Settle*. The sounds of experimental electronic producer Flying Lotus is probably the closest you'll get to hearing J Dilla embracing modern technology. This barely covers everyone that J Dilla has inspired in some shape or form.

Additionally, J Dilla was a founding member of the production collective known as the Soulquarians, collaborating with Questlove, D'Angelo, Q-Tip, James Poyser, Bilal, Talib Kweli, Erykah Badu and Common (the latter of who would release a breakthrough album, *Like Water for Chocolate*, featuring the major contributions of Jay Dee).

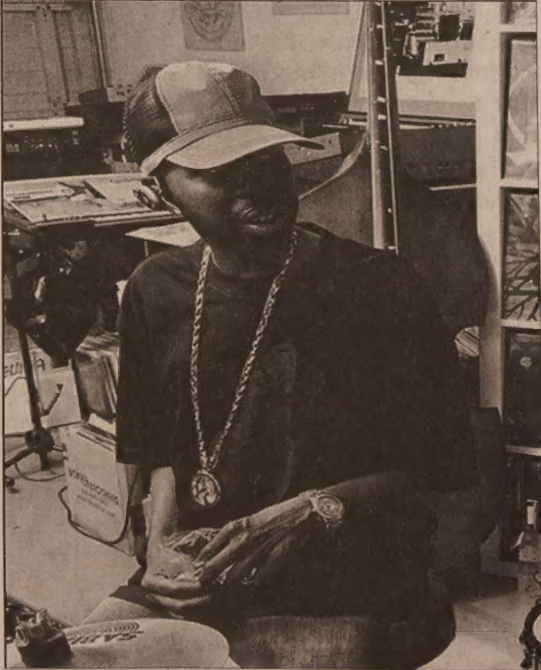
Born James Dewitt Yancey on Feb. 7, 1974 in Detroit, J Dilla (also known as Jay Dee) developed a deep musical knowledge from a young age, thanks to his parents' musical background (his mother is a former opera singer and his father was a bassist), and he began collecting vinyls as a toddler. He took up beatmaking by using a simple tape deck, spending most of his teenage years expanding his record collection and improving upon his use of the tape deck.

While he enjoyed a wide range of genres, J Dilla developed an increased interest in hip-hop while in high school. It was during this time that he met and befriended T3 and Baatin, the two people with whom he would form the rap group Slum Village in 1996. They recorded their debut, *Fantastic (Vol 1.)*, in Dilla's home studio that same year, and finally released it in 1997. Upon release, the album quickly became popular among fans of Detroit hip-hop and it gained the attention of the likes of Q-Tip, who considered the group as the

In 2001, J Dilla decided to go solo, leaving Slum Village and releasing the LP *Welcome 2 Detroit*, which further cemented his status as a virtuosic beatmaker who could create an album of hip-hop beats that demonstrated a wide range of musical influences. Within the next five years, J Dilla would go on to release two more albums (*Ruff Draft* and *Donuts*), and a collaboration album with L.A.-based producer Madlib (*Champion Sound*), under the name *Jaylib*.

His output slowed down after 2004, with his health slowly deteriorating as he went public about his health problems that resulted from his dramatic weight loss. By 2005, J Dilla toured Europe performing from a wheelchair, later revealing that he was suffering from a rare blood disease. J Dilla died on Feb. 10, 2006, three days after the release of his last album, *Donuts*.

Since then, there has been an increased amount of interest in his remaining catalog, and now more than ever do people appreciate Dilla's influence on production. While the world lost a talented musician, a whole generation of musicians still carries his memory on, using his music, both past and posthumous releases, as inspiration for their own creative endeavors.



VEK MOTA VIA FLICKR
James Dewitt "J Dilla" Yancey would have turned 40 on Feb. 7.

Fallen giants: Allen and Hoffman's struggles

The latest in entertainment news reminds us that celebrities are human and can have flaws, too

The last few weeks have seen a whirlwind of activity in the entertainment sphere, most of it related to news that indubitably makes the general public lose the little faith we had in the giants we call celebrities.

Phillip Seymour Hoffman, one of the greatest acting talents of our generation, overdosed on heroin. Hoffman has served as one of the most brilliant character actors of all time. From smaller performances in classics like *Boogie Nights* and *The Big Lebowski* to leading roles in acclaimed films like *The Master* and an Oscar-winning performance in *Capote*, Hoffman has expertly captured the ethos of many distinctly complex characters.

Perhaps the persona he paid the least attention to was the one facing him in the mirror.

It is not an easy thing to assume a personality other than one's own, to essentially become someone else. Total immersion in a separate personality often leads to the most authentic and riveting performance an actor can give. It is also has the potential to be incredibly destructive.

The most recent example that comes to mind is that of the revered Heath Ledger. Ledger gave a disturbingly accurate per-

formance in Christopher Nolan's masterpiece *The Dark Knight*, in which he played the Joker, a performance so genuine that it was both simultaneously brilliant and terrifying. Soon after production was completed on the film, Ledger took his own life.

Hoffman's situation does not entirely parallel that of Ledger's but there are similar tones. In Ledger's case, the work brought out his inner demons; Hoffman threw himself into his work to try to escape those very same. Hoffman developed a drug problem in his twenties but was able to kick it for the majority of his acting career, a "sobriety" streak that spanned 23 years.

Hoffman did many amazing things during this period: he started a family, acted in and directed numerous films and shorts, and cemented his legacy as a legend in the film industry. However he was found with over 20 baggies of heroin when police investigated his apartment to perform an autopsy. Go figure.

How could such a respected figure be so unhappy? How does someone with everything in the

world relapse into such destructive behavior? Is Hoffman the victim of disease in this scenario or is he the ungrateful perpetrator?

These questions all yield nebulous responses. Who can really ever know?

Another unfortunate piece of news that has reared its ugly head over the past couple of weeks is that Woody Allen allegedly molested his daughter when she was seven years old. Allen is one of the greatest filmmakers of all time; his work transcends traditional genres and gets categorized as it's own entity. Allen is a cultural icon. He has become a societal archetype likened to every nerdy, funny boy with glasses.

When Dylan Farrow published an open letter in the *New York Times* two Sundays ago, in which she accused Allen of molesting her at such a young age, Allen diehards didn't know quite how to react.

Now, after Allen has published a letter essentially claiming that Dylan's mother, actress Mia Farrow, brainwashed her in contempt of Allen, we're still not sure. The whole situation sucks,

Michael Louis
Rosin
Music, Movies & More

period. If these allegations are true, how can we possibly separate the artist from the man? Is it possible to enjoy *Annie Hall* (one of Allen's landmark films) without being reminded of the terrible things that the maker is accused of?

This leads to a broader question in terms of art in general. To what extent does an artist's personal life affect how we view their work?

Can we enjoy *Chinatown* without being reminded that it's director, Roman Polanski, was accused of statutory rape all those years ago? Should we feel that we are morally reprehensible people for continuing to watch *Duck Dynasty* despite egregious remarks made by the show's star Phil Robertson? All of these quandaries are too subjective to be answered effectively.

On one hand an actor is acting. He is pretending to be someone he is not, and therefore the man should have no bearing on the art. Conversely, to what extent do we let people get away with their moral corruption? At a certain point, pressing issues become too large to ignore.

The ball is in your court, society. Will we continue to stand by while morally bankrupt men continue to profit off of our willingness to accept them?

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorial

Co-ed housing fosters diversity

Starting next fall, Hopkins students will be able to apply for gender inclusive housing, which will allow them to live with a roommate of the opposite sex. This change in policy is motivated by a desire to make campus housing more comfortable and inclusive, particularly for transgender students who previously were housed in a way that might not have respected their gender identities. The new policy applies to both freshmen and upper-classmen but is a strictly optional elective. The University cautioned, however, in an email announcement to students, that it strongly discourages couples from rooming together.

The Editorial Board is pleased by the change because we see two main advantages and no important downsides. Firstly, gender inclusive housing fosters a more accepting community to transgender students. Diversity comes in many forms, and unfortunately so does discrimination; anything that Hopkins can do to eliminate policies with detrimental effects on minority populations should be greeted with enthusiastic support.

Secondly, coed housing permits even cisgendered Hopkins students

a wider range of choice in their living situations and allows them to take responsibility for their choices. The Editorial Board hopes students will use this policy to live with their friends and not with their significant others, as we can envision a whole host of terribly awkward situations that might arise. Nevertheless, we cannot issue a categorical condemnation of the practice either, for we are not qualified or informed enough to gauge the merits of the idea in each individual case. Neither, we feel, is the University; only the students involved should get a say in such matters. If living together is ever appropriate, the couples themselves are the best qualified to make that decision. If it is unwise, students will usually be able to detect this on their own. Such uncomfortable botched arrangements will only last a year, which in the long run is not as long as it may seem.

The University's decision to trust Hopkins students with the freedom to make their own decisions on such personal matters is not only an overdue and considerate accommodation to the student population, but also an appreciated sign of respect for our collective judgment and maturity.

Oscar Martinez-Yang



LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be e-mailed to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com for inclusion in a Thursday issue. All letters received become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include contact information and cannot be anonymous. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

Robotics club teaches useful skills

The Hopkins Robotics Club was formed earlier this month to provide an outlet for students to practice the engineering and computer science skills that they learned in the classroom. The Editorial Board commends this club for launching an enterprise that aligns with Hopkins' cutting edge role in technological research. It is vitally important that these types of clubs exist on campus because they allow for students to learn practical skills that will serve them after graduation.

The Editorial Board also commends sophomore Max Yelsky and the 40 or so members of the Robotics Club for blazing the path for the club to re-emerge after several years of dormant activity. The University should do more to foster this type of collaboration and initiative, especially when it comes to think-

ing beyond the classroom. Many Hopkins students are primarily focused on their heavy workload, which does not always allow them to think outside the box. Clubs such as the Robotics Club will allow students to use the material and skills they've learned at Hopkins without the added pressure of the stressful classroom environment.

To further build upon the Robotics Club in the short term, the Editorial Board urges any academic departments relevant to the mission of the Robotics Club to continue to support the club and the formation of groups like it in any way they can, such as helping the group apply for grants and having professors mentor the students. This will send the message to students that the University cares about supporting students both in and out of the classroom.

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PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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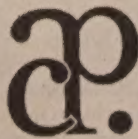
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OPINIONS

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Religious hierarchy impedes equitable America

By SARALLAH SALEHI

In his critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, Karl Marx emphatically claims, "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless world." Going further, Marx remarks religion is nothing but an opiate that provides an illusory sense of happiness, which impedes their ability to realize that real happiness lies not in an abstract illusion but rather in their concrete material relations. Almost 200 years after this insightful expose, religion today, more than any other factor, continues to play the most integral role in how a large majority of our country sees both itself and others' position within the intricate global web.

But why is it that billions still fetter their minds around belief systems whose theological validity has repeatedly been shown to stand in staunch contradiction with proven scientific facts and established historical events? More baffling might be the question of why religiosity has actually intensified in many places, rather than attenuate, in the face of these apparent empirical inconsistencies. But the most pressing question above all is what motivates many to zealously support religious institutions whose political agenda runs directly against their own interests. The answer to these startling realities undoubtedly lies among the dynamic multitude of economic forces that comprise our modern capitalist society and how the greater public perceives the way these forces impact their daily lives. Particularly important is the influential role that religious leaders play in justifying the continuation of such a disaster prone economic system.

Revived orthodox conservative movements on the Right, in the form of the Tea Party and an ideologically charged Republican party, rose out of the destruction wreaked by the 2008 financial crisis. At the core of

these radical movements, however, has been an entrenched return to traditionalist Christian values reminiscent of the Puritanical witch-hunts of early colonial America. Brandishing a simplistic panacea for the ills of the country, these vitriolic factions continue to lash out against those whom they identify as laying outside their religious-ideological beliefs. Whether it is a strong resentment towards poor Mexican migrant workers for taking their jobs, hateful attitude towards gay people as inherently different than heterosexuals or the comical belief that their black President is secretly a Communist/Socialist, these fringe groups have irrevocably altered the political terrain of our country.

But the most intriguing aspect of this orthodox revival might be the paradoxical re-embrace of the prevailing capitalist order by those exact same individuals whose lives it completely torn asunder through speculative gambling on Wall Street. The sight of figures like the Koch brothers being heartily welcomed by these groups' as symbolizing the epitome of honorable success has been puzzling. It is as obvious that these billionaires are simply looking to exploit the fervent megaphone of the Tea Party to further their own business interests as it is troubling to think the group can't detect such deceit. Incessant chants for lower taxes, cuts in social spending and annulment of the healthcare initiative are antithetical to the peoples' very interests. Here, religion's powerful ideological magnet pulls more forcefully than anywhere else because, instead of realizing that the same individuals in whom they have imbued their trust are the ones indirectly responsible for their current malaise, the justification that we receive is an absurd invocation of some divine being's "grand plan." Behind these misguided conclusions are always the same corrupt religious leaders who possess a vested interest in protecting the status quo, all the while profiting immensely from the pittance of their followers.

This corrupt business model thrives perfectly in the poor enclaves of the American South where magnificent evangelical mega-churches run by opulent pastors constantly proselytize the virtues of liberty espoused by the political Right. Citizens of states such as Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, where some communities are stunningly similar to squalid caricatures of third-world nations, never fail to overwhelming vote in favor of ecclesiastics who devoutly support socially regressive policies. It seems counter-intuitive to think that a region, where the official poverty rate is a record high 17 percent, would consistently elect national representatives in relentless pursuit of economic initiatives detrimental to their constituents' livelihoods.

The policy discussions dominating the electoral scene in these states revolve around issues like denying equal marriage benefits to same-sex couples, shutting down minor social programs like Planned Parenthood and preventing a socialized model of national healthcare from restricting their freedoms (not that Obamacare satisfies such a model). Who are the main agents behind the support of this trivial and distracting political discourse? They are, in fact, the same leaders who every Sunday pontificate on equality and the necessity of building a more fair and just society. Yet, their explanations of why these end goals are not being effectively pursued ultimately circle back to the aforementioned talking points, rather than highlighting the grossly inequitable policies that form the bedrock of our current economic system.

But this isn't to say that the religious establishment is the only minority block supporting a status quo pernicious to the interests of the majority or even that they are always in favor of such a system. It is undeniable that the Church (particularly the Catholic Church) provides millions of poor Americans with critical material and spiritual support in times of need. Yet, the apathy of the main leaders within these

enormously influential centers of social life towards the most pressing issues facing our country today is inexcusable. The reason for the shortcoming is not due to a lack of understanding but rather the unwillingness to stand against the unfair policies from which they ultimately derive their exorbitant wealth and influence. For instance, the absurd law that renders a church tax-exempt has permitted many agents within the Evangelical base to amass tremendous material wealth, which has permitted them to create almost mini fiefdoms within their respective locales.

To rail against these obviously biased policies would essentially require religious leaders to engage in activities opposed to their best interests. But if history has anything to tell us about such a prospect, it's that this will never happen without a mass consensus among the rank and file. Sadly, the likelihood of this collective conscious organically forming seems quite bleak given the strength of the framework in place to counteract it. Aided by powerful media conglomerates with similar interests, religious leaders shield their congregations from narratives that explore the foundational aspects of society's problems.

In spite of these challenges, the religious domain still has the potential to motivate large sectors of the American population to demand real political and economic changes from the state. But for this to occur, there needs to be a sustained effort that works to highlight the subterfuge of the religious hierarchy while simultaneously providing a substantive vision for positive change. More importantly, this has to occur without encroaching upon the individual's religious beliefs. The goal should not be to insult the doctrines making up their core values, but rather to demonstrate the possibility of a fairer and more just world where all individuals derive benefit — not simply a selected few.

Sarallah Salehi is a sophomore majoring in math and political science.

Rub some dirt on it: Defending athletic violence

By WILL MARCUS

Way back in the day (~10,000 BC), the only sport on Earth was killing

stuff. There really wasn't much to do besides killing people. . . and making people. Sometimes for better and most of the time for worst, violence is an integral part of what makes us human. I'm here to talk about "the better."

Violence is under attack in schools and in sports. Three Virginian middle schoolers were expelled last September for waging an air-soft battle on their own yard while waiting for the bus one morning. These types of knee-jerk reactions to violence are just the beginning of this oppressive, paternalistic movement. Those kids were just doing what kids have done since the dawn of time: imitate stupid sh** they think is cool. When I was in middle school, I wore a backwards white Volcom hat daily and busted my obese middle school ass on a tiny Walmart skateboard with a Blink 182 graphic on the bottom. Even if only for a few fleeting moments, I lived out my fantasies of "Tony Hawk Pro Skater" on the Nintendo 64, just like those kids lived out theirs from "Call of Duty." Even cooler: unlike those dweebs, I almost talked to a girl.

These childhood fantasies, no matter how unbelievably stupid they are, teach us valuable lessons without causing any real harm besides cuts and bruises. When your grandpa acted out his middle school war fantasies, he most likely got trench foot and a sucking chest wound. How do you think he feels when he hears that the local elementary school banned running on the playground? It probably gives him one more excuse to hate you and what your generation is doing to the world.

Logically speaking, this attack on violence is robbing kids of a very important part of their development. In the real world, there are absolutely winners and losers. My high school football coach always told us to get as low as possible, drive our feet as hard as possible and throw every fiber of our being into every impact. But this wasn't to inflict injury — it was to prevent us from getting injured by the other guy.

Just like the gridiron, the world is an inherently violent place. Those who don't learn to face conflict with tenacity will repeatedly and undoubtedly get their sh** wrecked. Exposure to controlled physical violence in our formative years prepares us for the far more cutthroat psychological violence we all face on a daily basis as adults.

Professional athletes who make their living in blood are becoming polarizing figures. A growing minority believes that mixed martial arts fighters — and even now football players — make poor role models, and they campaign to neuter or even ban these types of sports. But this attitude isn't just an overreaction: it's intolerant. Some dudes genuinely get their rocks off from beating the crap out of other dudes and don't seemingly mind it very much when somebody else beats it out of them. What's the difference between this and dudes who get their rocks off from, say, having sex with other dudes? The groups who seek to deny the fighter the right to live his life the way he wants are no better than those other groups who seek to deny a gay man from living his life the way he wants. Both groups think that they "know better," so they preach these self-satisfying messages of moral superiority from atop oozing heaps of bullsh** and shamelessly tell others how they should live their lives.

These athletes know the risks of their violent sports, and they voluntarily brave them; nobody is holding a gun to their head. As Coach Ed enjoyed saying, "let the boys play."

Will Marcus is a Sophomore from Austin, T.X. He is double majoring in International Studies and Spanish. He is a humor columnist for the Opinions section.

Olympic onlookers must fight Russian homophobia

By CARISSA ZUKOWSKI

With the Winter Olympics in full swing, all eyes are on Russia. The Games at Sochi are attracting a surplus of media attention, ranging from reports on the unfinished hotel rooms to the invasive surveillance program implemented to avoid terrorist attacks.

Earlier this month, however, exposé writer Jeff Sharlet reported an even more somber Russian reality in an article in *GQ Magazine*, titled "Inside the Iron Closet: What it's like to be gay in Putin's Russia." For those looking for a worthwhile read (or even just procrastinators bored of *BuzzFeed*), I highly recommend this short report on a world far away from our own.

Sharlet paints the reality of life under Putin's iron fist, exposing Russia's acceptance of violent hate crimes. But more importantly, his article gives an explicit voice to the voiceless. He does not hide the dangers of his investigative reporting as he meanders through the treacherous waters of LGBT activism, interviewing activists, victims and Cossacks. Through their stories, we see a passionate screenshot of what life is like in Russia. Their citizens lack security and safety from the law, the Orthodox Church, and they are legally persecuted by both the Cossacks and the lay citizen.

It is evident that homosexuality is fundamentally wrong in the eyes of the Russian majority. Earlier this year, Putin passed a law prohibiting the distribution of "gay propaganda" to minors in Russia. One issue of particular concern is the law's

ambiguity; because the definition of "gay propaganda" is left open for interpretation, it gives the power to the Cossacks and to homophobic Russian citizens to interpret and enforce its meaning.

Later in the year, Putin hopes to pass a law that will remove children from homes with gay parents. It appears the Russian leader would rather dismember a family out of hate and lack of understanding than risk having a globalized society that accepts gays.

The ban on gay propaganda has attracted a lot of media attention, but how will fans and athletes handle it during the Winter Games? Many have been encouraged to fight the ban, but there are also some who feel protest is useless. *Fox News* reported that Daniela Iraschko-Stolz of Austria, an openly gay women's ski-jumper competing in the Games, claims that protesting is irrelevant as "no one cares" in Russia. She further opined that the ban is an internal social concern that will work itself out in due time.

This particular athlete's passivity is disheartening and disappointing. Ultimately, it is her decision what she does with her voice, but it's a pity that she chooses not to involve herself even as she has the opportunity to sustain change. The entire world is watching the athletes at Sochi. Typically I would agree with the idea to stay out of someone else's business, but there is something so twisted about the reality of the world in this instance. Hosting the Winter Games is an honor that should be regarded with the highest level of prestige, but yet behind the festivities and the competition, the Rus-

sian government is attempting a eradication of homosexuality in their country.

The acceptance of violence and brutality is a social norm for Russian citizens of Russia. Looking at our nation's history, we too used to accept prejudiced discrimination, but with the activism of great humanitarians, such as Harvey Milk and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we eradicated unjust hate at the federal level. While there still are hate groups, our government no longer condones the separation of blacks and whites. Definite progress has been made.

In more modern times, we see even more progress in creating a more humane and accepting living environment. The LGBT community thrives compared to what it used to be. Earlier in the twentieth

Change may have taken a while to accomplish, but we only succeeded because of the perseverance of courageous activists...

century, Greenwich Village underwent raids against the homosexual community, but now, states are legalizing gay marriage. Change may have taken a while to accomplish, but we only succeeded because of the perseverance of courageous activists willing to risk their personal safety and comfort for the greater good of the community and for the future generations to come.

While we watch Russia this winter, we should not passively ignore the social issues that ex-

ist within their borders. If the rest of the world puts pressure on Putin, over time, something is bound to happen. Civil injustices do not go unnoticed forever.

There comes a point where one side must fold, and if, God forbid, Putin continues with his suggestive extermination of people based on their sexual orientation, the rest of the world will have no choice but to engage out of moral principle.

The reality of the situation is reminiscent of the beginning of humanity's horrid past hate crimes, such as the acts of the KKK and the Holocaust. The fundamental differences between the government's treatment of people opens the door to potential international conflict. Will this lead to another instance of the iron curtain hiding the world from the citizens of Eastern Europe?

The United States legislative branches of government are fighting to create a society of safety and prosperity, whereas Russia is furthering a divide out of dated fear. In this standstill, we are forced to standby and watch humans be stripped of their freedom. The pain in my chest I feel when I think about these realities makes me thankful for the country I live in, but also makes me anxious for the future of the rest of the world.

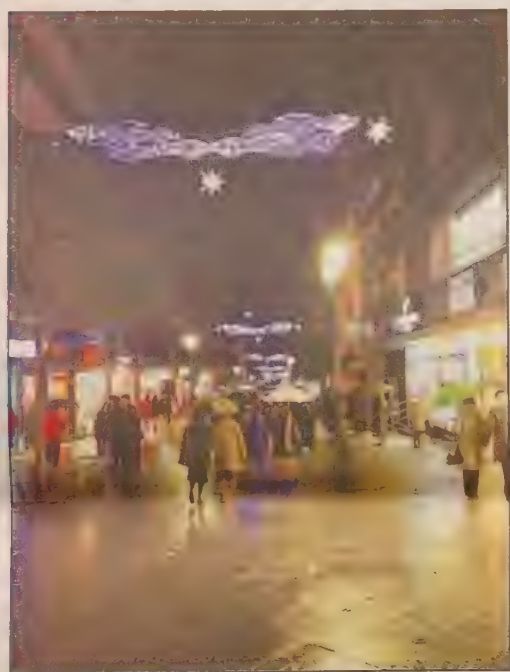
We must look out of our bubble and ask ourselves what we can do to help protect those who have done nothing but be themselves.

Carissa Zukowski is a freshman from Baltimore, Md. She has not yet decided what to major in. She is a Staff Writer for *The News-Letter* Opinions section.

PHOTO ESSAY

Intersession 2014 in Salamanca, Spain

By Melanie Levine



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YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 13-16

Asian Chipotle eatery satisfies

By SALLY HWANG
Your Weekend Editor

This past Saturday I was called to DC for an internship event and took the opportunity to visit ShopHouse in Dupont Circle. Known as the "Asian Chipotle," ShopHouse is exactly that. Run by Chipotle, the restaurant follows the same principles of "food with integrity" and the same manner of service.

As a huge fan of Chipotle (I mean, who isn't?) I was quite excited to try ShopHouse. There are only five locations in the United States, compared to the hundreds of Chipotles. The one in Dupont was the first test run, after which they decided to expand. Of the five, three are in Southern California, and the fourth is in Bethesda.

ShopHouse's décor was quite similar to Chipotle's laid back, minimalist but homey style. But there were some Asian accents like a long shelf, extending the length of a wall, filled completely with sriacha bottles.

The system was the same as Chipotle, leaving customers to call out their choices as the servers

mixed them in a bowl behind the counter. I chose the pork and chicken meatballs after reading some rave reviews about them on Yelp. The rest of my bowl included jasmine rice, broccoli, spicy red curry, pickled vegetables and crispy garlic.

No descriptive review could have prepared me for the savory heaven that the pork and chicken meatballs brought. They were, quite honestly, the best meatballs I've ever had in my life and possibly as good as meatballs can ever get. So ignore the chicken satay, grilled steak and most certainly the tofu. Get the meatballs.

The rest of my bowl was delicious but not anything noteworthy. The curry had a good level of spice — not too hard and not too weak. The broccoli was seasoned with an unexpected chili-vinegar mixture that gave it a slightly spicy flavor. In true Chipotle fashion, the portion was pretty big. I felt about as satisfied as I do after a delicious burrito bowl with steak and guacamole.

It's worth defending ShopHouse here and saying that they are still in the casual dining/fast food chain category. Though I would say that their food is impressively fresh and yummy for fast food, it seems wrong to judge them in the same category as a more sit-down style restaurant.

There are two critiques I do offer though. First, the coconut rice and mango parfait they offer as "dessert" is terrible. It's tiny and 80 percent rice. Definitely not worth the money. You're much better off crossing the street to Kramerbooks & Afterwords Café, which is open ridiculously late with Yelp-famous desserts.

Second, ShopHouse could offer so much more. I was imagining a better version of the One Bowl station in Levering but was sorely disappointed to see that ShopHouse only offers three sauces and no noodle soup options. If ShopHouse wants to continue calling itself the "Asian Chipotle," it's going to have to offer a lot more Asian foods.

Overall, I wouldn't recommend going to DC just to try ShopHouse, but it's worth a try if you're in the area and not looking to spend a lot of money.

mate with great production quality but also that the theater companies are totally willing to experiment and do some weird stuff.



THEJHUBARNSTORMERS.ORG

A snapshot of Witness Theater members performing their 2013 fall show, *Noises Off* by Michael Frayn.

B'more, Hopkins theater scene thrives

By PAM HUGI
Guest Columnist

This past weekend, both on and off campus, there was a lot of theater going on in Baltimore.

On Friday, I performed with my improv troupe, "The Buttered Niblets," in our final show before we head to Chicago to compete at the College Improv Tournament Nationals. This is the second year in a row we have won the Philadelphia regional of the tournament, which means we will play with 11 of the top college improv troupes in the nation again in March. Last Friday's show was the first time all 10 members got to perform together this year which made it extra special.

The following day, I went with a friend to the Everyman Theater and saw a production of *Crimes of the Heart*, a play by Beth Henley about three sisters being reunited after the youngest shoots her husband. Something I've always loved about Baltimore and the Baltimore art scene is that not only are the theaters here inti-

mate with great production quality but also that the theater companies are totally willing to experiment and do some weird stuff.

This is refreshing compared to other cities where theater has become a more stagnant art form. The art scene is so young here that we get the chance to see it grow. Sometimes this means watching the more awkward growth spurts, but other times, like with *Crimes of the Heart*, we get to see an energetic theater company taking on a classic and making it their own.

That evening I traveled back to campus in order to catch Throat Culture's 24-Hour Show. The comedy sketch group collected suggestions for sketches on their Facebook page, and then when the clock struck 8 p.m. on Friday, began to write and practice in a flurry in order to put up a show by 8 p.m. the next day.

I always love the Throat Culture 24-hour shows because they are so full of energy. Despite the fact that the members of the group have barely slept,

they are all pumped up and ready to be ridiculous by the time the audience arrives.

Sketches ranged from 11 year-old riot girls tormenting their baby-sitter to a member of the cast, Utkarsh Rajawat, sitting alone on the stage eating a doughnut and making whale noises. Every sketch was fresh, silly and so much fun to watch. The audience was in on the joke with the troupe.

Neither the cast nor the audience really knows what a 24-hour show will look like until it happens. This calls for trust between the audience and the actors; a bond is formed in a sort of "well we'll see how this goes" as the two parties prepare to have a little adventure.

Exploring the comedy and theater scene both on and off campus is an amazing way to spend a weekend. I highly recommend it. If you are looking to explore more of Baltimore, some other really cool theaters to check out around Baltimore are Single Carrot Theater, Everyman Theater, The Strand and Centerstage.



MINXSOCIETY.COM

ShopHouse's interior is reminiscent of Chipotle's plywood minimalist style with a definite Asian twist.

Noteworthy Events



TOPWORKPLACES.COM

Miss Shirley's Cafe, a Baltimore classic, is participating in restaurant week.

Baltimore Annual Winter Restaurant Week

Various Times

Sun. Feb. 16 - Sun. Feb. 23

Downtown Baltimore

Baltimore Winter Restaurant Week is back despite the rather chilly winter. During the event, various restaurants in Charm City will offer three-course dinners for either \$20 or \$30. A few select places will also offer a two-course fixed-price lunch for \$15. Among those participating are the B&O American Brasserie, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Fleet Street Kitchen, Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant, Miss Shirley's Cafe in the Inner Harbor, Phillips Seafood, Ruth's Chris Steak House and many many more delicious eateries.

Charm City Cakes Valentine Ruffled Cake Class

11 a.m.

Sat. Feb. 15

Charm City Cakes

Learn from the world-famous patissiers at Charm City Cakes this weekend as they hold a class on cake-making. Tickets are a bit pricey, \$150 per person. There is a 15 percent discount for groups of two or more. Participants will receive an iced six-inch cake and will learn the proper way to fondant it. Don't let allergies or dietary preferences deter you; they have vegan and gluten-free options. The class will teach basic airbrush skills and the right way to adhere ruffles to a cake for a fun Valentine's day weekend.



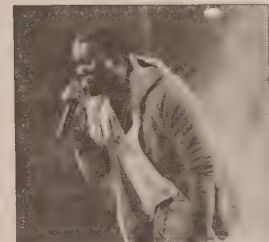
REUBEN INGBER VIA FLICKR

The exterior of Charm City Cakes, famous from the show *Ace of Cakes*.



COMEDIANS.ABOUT.COM

Comedian Ralphie May performs (left); Kanye West at MOMA (right).



JASON PERSSE VIA FLICKR



DRAFTHOUSE.COM

Rocky Horror Picture Show (left); Hopkins Symphony Orchestra (right).



JHU.EDU/JHSO

Calendar

2/13 Ralphie May (Magooby's Joke House)

King: A Filmed Record... Montgomery to Memphis (The Charles Theatre)

2/14 Kanye West (Baltimore Arena)

Witness Theater Show (Swirnow Theater)

2/15 Katt Williams (DAR Consitution Hall)

Rocky Horror Picture Show (Arelano Theater)

2/16 Hopkins Symphony Orchestra Chamber Concert (Meyerhoff Interfaith Center)

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arrow is an epic thrill for fans of fantasy and adventure

Audiences should prepare to be simultaneously shocked and thrilled

Night falls across the city, as the seedy criminal underground stirs to life. Frightened citizens lock themselves in their homes in fear. Gangs take to the street to fight their wars. Black markets deals see the exchange of everything from drugs to automatic weaponry. The corrupt bureaucrats set their thugs on the unwary, whether to collect debts or kill witnesses doesn't matter.

Then, mysteriously from the shadows, emerges a lone warrior. Armed with skills not seen in normal men, he dispatches the villains with frightening efficiency. Gunmen flee as their bullets miss their mark; brawlers fall, unable to match the warrior in combat; and his target shrinks, frightened and broken by the picture of retribution before them. And as his veiled face stares the offenders

into submission, he leaves an eerie message: "You have failed this city."

No, he's not Batman.

What he is, is the protagonist of series simply titled "Arrow," which began syndication on The CW roughly



COURTESY OF LUNAJRV VIA FANPOP

Arrow is an epic journey into fantasy, myth and science fiction that will please fans.

Flashframe Film Reviews



Tim Freborg

one year ago. Based on the DC Comics hero Green Arrow, the series currently rests at 36 episodes aired over its — to this point — two season run. I decided to look into the series' quality, and I was very pleasantly surprised with what I found.

The main protagon-

ist of the series is Oliver Queen, heir to the billionaire Queen family of the fictional Star City. Young, wealthy and reckless, he is best known for his excessive partying, questionably legal antics and assaults on paparazzi.

However, his life is drastically undone when he sets out on a cruise on his private yacht with his father and Sarah, the younger sister of the woman Oliver is dating. In what seems like a critical mechanical failure, the yacht

breaks apart at sea causing Sarah to drown. As Queen and his father drift on a lifeboat, Oliver's father kills himself but not before telling Oliver a deadly secret: that the Queen family has failed his city and that Oliver must right his father's wrongs. Receiving a book of names, Oliver shipwrecks on an uncharted island, where he remains for five years; after his final rescue, he returns to Star City, donning a green hood, taking up a bow and begins hunting down the men on his father's list one at a time.

The plot is broken into two story segments. Chronologically, the series begins immediately following Oliver's rescue from the island and focuses primarily on his exploits as the Green Arrow. However, the show frequently flashes back to his time on the island, showing just what happened in those five years to turn him into such a fierce warrior and explain why he chooses to use a bow.

Now, the story features a number of superhero clichés: the costumed hero, troubled past, conflicts between the vigilante and



COURTESY OF STELENAVAMP VIA FANPOP

Arrow has a very interesting time sequence with both a logical plotline and disorienting flashbacks in time.

Throat Culture show wows crowd

By ALLI GRECO
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Saturday, Throat Culture, Hopkins's premiere sketch comedy troupe, kicked off the spring semester in hilarious style with its "Welcome Back 24-Hour Show" in Arellano Theater. Despite the troupe's small size, over the course of one hour, they served up such heaping helping of hilarity that Arellano nearly shook with thunderous laughter.

Senior Geordan Williams, a member of Throat Culture explained that the concept of the 24-Hour Show is that it is essentially written for and by the audience. Namely, fans of the event page on Facebook had the opportunity to post ideas for sketches that Throat Culture would then select. Over the course of 24 hours, its members rehearsed the fleshed-out sketches and then ultimately acted them out for students at the Saturday night show. The initial sketch ideas ranged from the completely random to the utterly absurd to the

outright hilarious. Whatever the nature of these ideas, they all had to be "jumping off points" to get the comedians' imaginations going.

The show itself was an absolute success, as indicated by the audience's overwhelmingly positive reaction to each sketch.

It started off by mercilessly goofing on Arizona. Throat Culture members branded Arizona as the home state of endless, cactus-replete deserts, racial profiling, Arizona Iced Tea and gun shops.

"Fun fact: You do not need a license to carry a concealed weapon in Arizona!" one boy gleefully exclaimed.

Students in the audience were having such a good time with this sketch. Judging by the explosive laughter throughout the room, it was clear that the audience did not see this as an overt assault on Arizona. Rather, it was a light-hearted mockery of the sillier things in society, a habit which many people are guilty of

SEE THROAT CULTURE, PAGE B4



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Throat Culture's 24-Hour Show was an amazing all-around performance.

Love songs set the Valentine's Day tone

By AUBREY ALMANZA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Music speaks to human emotion. This Valentines Day, whether you're at one end of the spectrum feeling madly in love or, conversely, recently single, there is a song here for you. Tip: If you want to give a thoughtful gift or set the tone with romantic melodies, add these songs to a personalized playlist and reap the benefits!

IS LOVE IN THE AIR? DO YOU HAVE A ROMANTIC EVENING PLANNED? ARE YOU CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY? EMBELLISH YOUR MILESTONE WITH THESE LOVING SONGS THAT SPAN MULTIPLE GENRES:

- "May Waltz:" Brooke Fraser
- "Until the Last Falling Star:" Mathew Perryman Jones
- "Hold Onto My Heart:" Graham Colton
- "Angel:" Jack Johnson
- "What I Wouldn't Do:" A Fine Frenzy
- "I'd Rather Be With You:"

Joshua Radin

"Turning Page:" Sleeping At Last

"January Wedding:" The Avett Brothers

"The Girl:" City and Colour

"To Whom it May Concern:" The Civil Wars

"Can't Help Falling in Love:" Ingrid Michaelson (Cover)

"Oh, My Darling:" Basia Bulat

"Homeless:" Del Water Gap

"Next to Me:" Sleeping at Last

"Darling I Do:" Landon Pigg

"You and Me:" Mathew Barber

"Let's Be Still:" The Head And The Heart

"A Face to Call Home:" John Mayer

"Wanted:" Hunter Hayes

"Crazier:" Taylor Swift

"Dance With Me Tonight:" Olly Murs

SEE PLAYLIST, PAGE B4

Five minutes of fame aren't worth the underage shame

By RACHEL WITKIN
Staff Writer

Ever since Rebecca Black's "Friday," produced by Patrice Wilson, came out, it's been perfectly acceptable to make fun of anything and everything he produces. All of his videos are terrible, auto-tuned and feature 12-year-old girls who, especially in the wake of pop culture's obsession with Black, have at least some understanding that they're going to get their 15 minutes of fame, but they're also going to get ridiculed. Their parents must know this too, but they seem to be totally fine with shelling out the money so their children can follow their dreams and get famous.

They also seem to be totally fine with letting their children spend an excessive amount of time with Wilson, who always raps in each of their videos and comes off as extremely creepy. He's usu-

ally hanging out with a bunch of preteen girls in these videos with no parents around. In one of his last videos with Alison Gold (the highly creative "ABCDEF"), he roofies a bunch of children while

pretending he's giving them love potions because that's way more of an acceptable explanation. But it's nothing compared to that time that he played the pimp to Gold's prostitute, which happened in

with Gold, who is barely wearing anything, robbing a jewelry store and getting caught. In jail, she's handcuffed to an electric chair, and she says that her last words are "Gold is the new black." Get it? Cut to a bunch of skimpy dancers and Gold dressed entirely in gold, singing over and over again "Forget the water, turn up the heat, turn it up now, turn it up now," because this entire song just has to be sexual, even though she's 12. Then she's getting electrocuted, which is what she seemed to want.

So Wilson not only thinks that it's appropriate to electrocute prostitutes, but that they're asking for it. The chorus then builds into a fast

SEE SHUSH UP, PAGE B5



CLIPHQRU

Alison Gold's recent music video, "Shush Up," debuted recently and has been stirring controversy among viewers.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Throat Culture provides interactive experience

THROAT CULTURE, FROM B3 Following this rip roaring spectacle, a couple of simple set pieces were moved onto the stage for the next sketch. The minimalist set served to Throat Culture's advantage, as it focused most of the audience's attention on the actors and their incredible comedic skills.

The next sketch moved away from the Arizona riff and onto an interview at Microsoft gone bad. An interviewer from hell questions (or rather, scares the living daylight out of) a young, promising applicant.

"I'm Will Stevenson," begins the interviewer. "Most people call me 'harddrive'."

Right from the beginning, it is clear that this is no ordinary interviewer, and that this will prove to be a very uncomfortable — but very hilarious — interview, something that many Hopkins students can relate to. Rather than asking standard interview questions about prior experience and personal attributes, Stevenson launches into his explicit sexual history, among other incredibly awkward topics. Completely creeped out by Stevenson and about to leave the interview room, the applicant happens upon Bill Gates, who ultimately fires "Harddrive" and hires the applicant on the spot. Another wildly successful sketch was thus added to the books.

Another, shorter highlight of the show was more

lacking in dialogue, but was no less funny. It featured a small circle of old, West Virginian men sitting in their lawn chairs, legs lazily splayed, beer in hand and watching the Super Bowl, or rather "Sheeper Bowl."

It was as if this concept was ripped from the quiet, hilarious and Midwest-centric screenplay of the film, *Nebraska*. The Throat Culture sketch proved that laughter can be induced just from watching the silent actions of caricature-like people that several students might have encountered in real life.

The sketch that brought down the house, though, was like an abbreviated version of the television game show, *Hollywood Squares*. However, the Throat Culture version was called, "Which member of [Throat Culture] are you?!"

After pulling out a member of the audience, the Throat Culture members, each in a different "square," were told to answer certain questions. For example, they had to answer to "Which spirit animal are you?," to which one member, self-described as a vegetarian, answered "celery."

After this sketch was over, it was a while until all of the laughter died down, and the audience began to clear out. It was apparent by the high attendance and positive reaction by the audience that Throat Culture's "Welcome Back 24-Hour Show" was a huge success.

Native Americans identified in Vatican art

By ALLI GRECO
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Vatican might seem an unlikely place for any trace of Native American life to end up, but in mid-2013, conservationists in the Borgia Apartments discovered several native men hidden in the background of a painting by a very prominent artist. *The Resurrection*, completed by Italian Renaissance artist Pinturicchio in 1494, was housed in an area of the Vatican that had gone largely unoccupied for nearly 500 years. Formerly inhabited by Pope Alexander VI in the 1400s, a Spanish pope with a reputation for corruption, the Borgia Apartments contained a cycle of frescoes that recently underwent a serious conservation process. While removing a thick layer of grime on the aforementioned painting, conservationists discovered small figures in the background who looked like they could be Native Americans.

"We see nude men, decorated with feathered headdresses who appear

to be dancing," Antonio Paolucci, Director of the Vatican Museums, said.

It is easy to see how these native figures could have gone unnoticed for so long by Vatican staff. One of the main characters in the painting is Pope Alexander in ornate robes, kneeling and praying to the left of Christ's tomb. Christ himself is

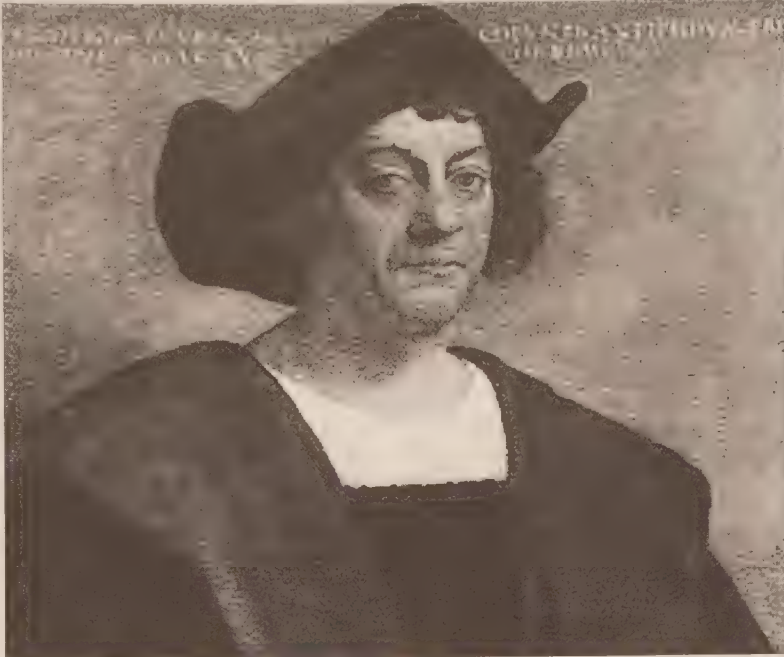
and whose scant clothing clashes with the heavy robes of the pontiff.

However, further examination of European imperialistic history clarifies this schism. Two years before *The Resurrection* was completed, Christopher Columbus conquered the West Indies, a trip that was funded by the Spanish

any known town or village. The accompanying text illuminates just what Columbus observed.

"This island and all the others are very fertile to a limitless degree. . . Its lands are high; there are in it many sierras and very lofty mountains, beyond comparison with that of Tenerife. All are most beautiful, of a thousand shapes; all are accessible and are filled with trees of a thousand kinds and tall, so that they seem to touch the sky."

After being initially captivated by the landscape of this unfamiliar island, Columbus was completely surprised by the foreign, yet intriguing behavior of the Native Americans, whom he depicts in the print as being nude and shy, yet generous with offerings.



Christopher Columbus's journal entries are likely to have inspired one of the Vatican's religious paintings.

seen resurrecting from the dead, and the whole scene is bordered by church-like arches and lush forestry in the background. With such prominent religious images, one would not exactly expect an appearance by Native Americans, whose rituals seems wholly unrelated to that of Catholic Rome

Catholic monarchs. In exchange for their generosity, Columbus gave them his travel logs, which described not only the geography of these islands, but also the people who lived on them.

Interestingly, Columbus's descriptions of the natives that he saw mirror those that appear in Pinturicchio's painting. Columbus observed nude men in ceremonial garb, who were often shown dancing in tribal rituals and looked very frightened. The travel logs were translated into Latin and circulated throughout Europe. They eventually came into the possession of Pope Alexander VI, a fellow Spaniard who was very interested in the New World, presumably for spreading Catholicism beyond Europe. Since Alexander knew about Columbus's travels and had a vested interest in the Americas, it makes sense that the Native Americans are included in *The Resurrection*. Alexander was excited about the New World, not disgusted by it, and his fascination with the descriptions Columbus provided fueled his intrigue. For these reasons, Native American clothing and ceremonial dance were portrayed in a very authentic and positive manner.

As Columbus's 1493 letter to Spain's King Ferdinand himself depicted Native Americans and island geography in a very inspiring and intriguing manner. Entitled *De Insulis nuper in mari Indico repertis*, Columbus's intent was to provide a detailed snapshot of what he thought were islands in the middle of the Indian Sea. However, they were actually Caribbean Islands close to the present-day United States.

It is highly probable that his recollections of native life on these islands inspired *The Resurrection's* depiction of the tribal figures in the background. Columbus includes an interesting series of prints of the islands and the mysterious people that inhabited them. Unlike anything he had ever experienced, Columbus's print of the island he called *Insula Hispana* is surrounded by a swirling, vast and endless ocean. The island, looks relatively tranquil, brimming with lush vegetation and towering cliffs over the water, absent of

people of this land and of all other islands which I have found and of which I have information, all go naked. . . as soon as they have seen my men approaching, they have fled. . . They refuse nothing that they possess, if it be asked of them; on the contrary, they invite any one to share it and display as much love as if they would give their hearts." Columbus is not describing these men and women as monsters but as surprisingly kind allies even though they are clad scantily and are wary of the Spanish explorers. As Columbus begins to discover more islands, he is excited by the diversity of the land and the possibilities for European development.

In an untitled print, he illustrates five islands named *Fecunda*, *Hispana*, *Saoluatorie*, *Plabella* and *Conceptore*. Although some of the islands show traces of European civilization with what appear to be church spires, most of the islands are still devoid of modern development and still contain a lot of natural diversity. Columbus is very interested in the fertility of these lands and the opportunities that awaited him.

"There are very wide and fertile plains, and there is honey; and there are birds of many kinds and fruits in great diversity. In the interior, there are mines of metals, and the population is without number. *Espanola* is a marvel. The sierras and the mountains, the plains, the champaigns, are so lovely and so rich for planting and sowing, for breeding cattle of every kind, for building towns and villages."

No wonder Pope Alexander VI had a vested interest in the New World and that the Native American men *The Resurrection* were painted with such detailed accuracy. Due to Columbus's favorable descriptions and artistic illustrations of the Caribbean islands' fertility, diversity of natural resources, beautiful landscape and friendly people, this would have set the stage for cultural imperialism and the spread of Christianity beyond Europe.

What better way to commemorate Columbus' wildly successful navigation and observations than by painting the dancing forest figures exactly as he saw them?

PLAYLIST, FROM B3

IF YOU'VE HAD THE MISFORTUNE OF RECENTLY GETTING DUMPED, ARE CURRENTLY MISSING SOMEONE, LOVE SOMEONE WHO'S TAKEN OR ARE NATURALLY HEARTBROKEN AND LONELY:

- "No Regrets:" Forest Sun
- "Gone Away:" Lucy Schwartz
- "Say Something:" A Great Big World
- "Gravity:" Sara Bareillis
- "Are We There Yet:" Ingrid Michaelson
- "Careful:" Guster
- "Girl From the North County Fair:" Johnny Cash
- "Don't Know Why:" Norah Jones
- "Paper Sails:" Stu Larsen
- "What Now:" Rihanna
- "Don't You Remember:" Adele
- "Wrecking Ball:" Miley Cyrus
- "You're Not Sorry:" Taylor Swift
- "I'm Moving On:" Rascal Flatts
- "Fidelity:" Regina Spektor
- "Thinking of You:" Katy Perry
- "Won't Even Start:" David Choi
- "The Wrong Side of Reno:" Rocky Votolato
- "I Will Wait:" Mumford and Sons
- "I Won't Give Up:" Jason Mraz

Three Fictional Men I Wish I'd Dated

By DEVIN ALESSIO
For The News-Letter

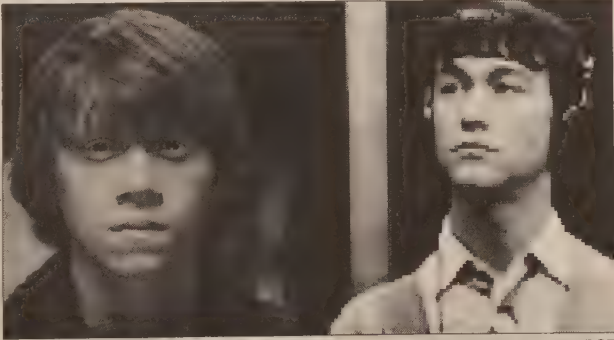
The way I see it, I'd rather be alone on Valentine's Day than date any of my gentleman callers at press time. (Read: There are none.) Besides, hanging out with my guy friends at school has given me an insight into the male psyche that terrifies me. Hopkins men put duct tape on the carpet so they know that when dirt starts to take the shape of their name they know they need to vacuum. They try to convince you it's totally normal to write narrative poems about the Playboy Mansion. They add more water to a bottle of shampoo instead of walking to Eddie's to buy a new bottle. All evidence points to me, myself and a bottle of wine this Valentine's Day, and I'm looking forward to it.

I'd be hard-pressed to find anyone on this campus that could hold a candle against the men I've found in movies, television and books when I'm supposed to be doing my homework. Here's some qualitative evidence that fictional men do it better than Hopkins dudes any day:

- 1) Seth Cohen, *The O.C.*

Anyone who's watched

The O.C. post-2003 knows that Summer Roberts was far too cool to be dating Seth, and that's just not how high school works. The hard, cold truth is that any Hopkins girl would appreciate Seth's adorable quirks. You like Death Cab? Seth's bought you front row tickets to their latest concert. You like holidays?



PETEANDCO VIA FANPOP RACHAELWSZ VIA FANPOP



SARAg2 VIA FANPOP Clockwise from top left: Ron Weasley, Tom Hansen and Seth Cohen are perfect boyfriends.

Seth's created his own. You like burritos? Seth loves burritos. You like comic books? Seth designs comic books. And even though you were supposed to be tuning in for the then-hunky Ryan Atwood (Wife beaters? So edgy.), you have to admit Seth Cohen's got it going on.

- 2) Ron Weasley, *Harry Potter*

Harry may be The Cho-

sen One, but I'd choose Weasley over HP any day. If Hopkins was Hogwarts, Harry would be the angst-ridden, egotistical Writing Sems major that keeps trying to tell you about his existential poetry in the shape of dementors, while Ron would keep you laughing during even the most miserable of all-nighters on D-level. Not only would the Weasleys be cool with you coming to visit for extended periods of the summer, they'd invite you to the Quidditch World Cup with them, too. At least Ron's into nerds — Hermione Granger, you've got competition.

- 3) Tom, (500) *Days of Summer*

I've never understood all of the hype about Zoëy Deschanel, and I'm pretty sure it has a lot to do with the way her character treats Joseph Gordon-Levitt's during the movie. HAVE YOU SEEN HOW BEAUTIFUL THIS MAN IS?!?! If a guy likes Mike Nichols movies, actually volunteers to sing at karaoke night and works a sweater vest, you put on a ring on that, STAT.

Alas, some things are just too good to be true. Hopkins men with literary taste: call me, beep me, if you want to reach me. If you're an engineer, it's OK.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Like Crazy is uniquely touching and realistic

By AUBREY ALMANZA
Arts & Entertainment Editor

With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, Super Crispy Entertainment's 2011 production, *Like Crazy* is once again abuzz. Unlike the trite dialogue and predictable clichés that plague Hollywood "chick flicks," *Like Crazy* distinguishes itself by capturing the human tendencies that characterize real relationships. Omitted are Hollywood's spectacular depictions — serendipitous meetings, fateful intervention, coincidental reunion — and in their places are beautiful, ordinary moments. *Like Crazy* reeks of authenticity and, although assigned to the romance genre, the film speaks to viewers of every relationship status.

The narrative follows Anna Gardner (played by Felicity Jones), a British exchange student, during her time abroad in Los Angeles. Here the aspiring writer meets Jacob Helm (Anton Helchin), a fellow classmate, who she's developed an innocent crush on.

Their association is mundane. Jacob pays little attention to Anna's essay delivery, focusing instead on his furniture draw-

ings, and does not bother with conversation after their first date happens over coffee and is not but ridden with nervous small talk. Although the pair stutters throughout their initial interaction, a budding chemistry is not only evident — it's lovely.

This table scene, like the rest of the film, is believable because Jones and Helchin acted unscripted. Director Drake Doremus allowed his leads free rein in terms of dialogue. With very little guidance, the actors successfully improvised their way through scenes while cameras continued rolling. The characters are convincing because their wit, responses and stumbles are indeed raw products of the moment.

In accordance with a



COURTESY OF AJACKSONN VIA FANPOP
Anna and Jacob portray the realistic obstacles faced in long distance relationships.

film void of any scripted lines, many moments of silence constitute 90 minutes. It goes without the memorable lines that famously characterize Nicholas Sparks movies, but rather, Doremus made a point of emphasizing the many ways love can be expressed without verbal proclamation.

Anna and Jacob connect their fingertips under a fort made of bed sheets. They sit facing one another in a bathtub, dejected and worried about their future prospects. The couple often writes notes, letters or poetry, inscribing words too meaningful to say aloud. In fact, Doremus goes so far as to mute many scenes, overriding walks along the boardwalk and laughter on the beach with soft piano. The most moving moments are arguably those without sound. Viewers aren't convinced of Anna and Jacob's affection by repeated, "I love you's"; they can see its existence through the subtle action.

Despite its title, *Like Crazy's* quiet

nature speaks to realistic relationship troubles. Anna and Jacob do not end with a blowout. No single, devastating event tears them apart. As is true of many early loves, the couple grows distant (literally separated by an ocean) over time. In agreement with the rest of the film, *Like Crazy* ends in a moment of silence: "not with a bang but a whimper." As Anna and Jacob stand quietly under the shower's running water, the couple (and audience) finally accepted the relationship's demise. The truth was too heartbreaking for words.

As is the case with most lower-budget, independent films, *Like Crazy* has its fair share of unsteady cameras and slightly off-kilter framing. The settings are typically far from glamorous, and the actors' looks don't stop traffic.

Yet this rejection of the perfect characters, lives and worlds portrayed by Hollywood are what make *Like Crazy* extraordinary. The everyday wardrobe, everyday people and their irrational tendencies are what make this film so relatable and touching. Alcohol makes suppressed feelings resurface. Love makes people illogical, as displayed by Anna's overstaying her student visa. As the couple spends time in the adult world, confronted with tiring jobs and taking on new lovers, they mature and ineluctably grow apart. Viewers leave upset that the pair doesn't work out in the long run, but convinced that their time together was worthwhile regardless.

If not this Valentine's Day, everyone should give *Like Crazy* a chance. More often than not, one will understand why the film won the 2011 Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize. Not only does *Like Crazy* provide a relatable plotline — the leading couple meets at a university — it is easily accessible and can be streamed instantly on Netflix.

Alison Gold stars in yet another perturbing video

SHUSH UP, FROM B3

into a fast dance beat, as she tells her guards, "Just crank it or just shush up," which makes no sense. Her other catch phrase throughout the song, "It's the gold like the seed," is just as baffling.

Transition to Gold in a hospital bed, as overly sexualized nurses shoot something (heroin?) into her IV. As she's holding a creepy doll and getting wheeled through the hospital, she sings, "You can't restrain me, cause I'm so free." Except she's clearly getting restrained. The only redeeming part about this song is that it's not as autotuned, and maybe Gold has an iota of vocal talent. But that's not the point.

Now she's in junkyard, wearing an outfit made primarily out of yellow caution tape, as a bunch of construction men watch her dance. But that's not even the worst part. She's back in gold, and she has a visitor in jail. Patrice Wilson. She asks him, "What do I do?" His chilling response? "You do what I told you to do." This exchange sums up the entire song. Wilson is essentially pimping Gold out.

The rest of the song doesn't really make any sense either. Gold tells Wilson, "Maybe I can save them," but doesn't explain any further. She then has this line, which is supposed to be emotional or a bridge or something different but is really just a bunch of words jumbled together: "Why are not so cold/Got you so cause you shiver." She then makes the sacrifice of switching from gold to silver, which really just means partying with a bunch of people, but the viewer gets the sense that something sinister is going down. The video ends with her watching herself in the electric chair.

Predictably, people freaked out that Gold, a preteen, made a video that was pretty much child pornography. A petition on change.org was set up by Social News Daily with the goal of getting Wilson to "stay away from little girls." Wilson told Mosh News earlier

this week that, "To everyone concerned about the music video — Shush Up — it's pure art, and it's no different than a Willow Smith video or the 10 year old dancer, Kaycee Rice. It's no different from watching Dance Moms, dancing with their kids or Toddlers and Tiaras. This video is simply art and in my opinion, has a lot of creative elements to it."

As if "Whip My Hair" is anywhere close to the debauchery that occurs in "Shush Up."

Wilson must have changed his mind yesterday, as he took down the video and his company, PMW Live released a statement blaming the situation entirely on Gold's mother. Part of it reads, "As we were developing the concept and direction for Alison's 4th video, the idea to create something older and edgier initially started with Alison's mother. Ultimately, we were asked to develop something that showcased her acting, dancing, singing, and artistic talents."

"This is how 'Shush Up' came to fruition. Before, during, and after production, everyone involved was pleased and excited for the release of the music video. However, after many months of planning and preparation for the release of 'Shush Up,' concerns regarding the public's perception of the video were voiced to PMW Live for the first time by Alison's mother after releasing the video yesterday."

Gold's mother is certainly partially to blame, as she should have never let this video happen, let alone posted it on YouTube. But the fact that PMW Live refuses to take any responsibility for this video is unacceptable. Hopefully, future parents will think twice before letting Wilson exploit their girls. Viewers can also do their part by ostracizing Wilson, not these girls for these videos.

Though the video is no longer on YouTube, it can still be found on Perez Hilton's website.



COURTESY OF AJACKSONN VIA FANPOP
Despite its sad conclusion, *Like Crazy's* authentic plot is worth experiencing.

Arrow's action scenes draw fans

ARROW, FROM B3

the police, and the like, are fairly common. Queen definitely falls into the category of the "Batman-style" superhero, relying on gadgets, planning and his character's wealth to provide him the means to fight crime.

Despite such clichés, however, where the show excels is in its very focused and consistent character growth. The main cast of characters is very small, composed of roughly eight main characters, all of whom feel real and who act in manners easy to empathize with. Each have their own issues, personalities and outlooks on the world, which influence how Oliver acts both overtly and subtly.

That's not to say that everything is perfectly done. Oliver (Stephen Amell), for instance, has a few issues with his portrayal. He has three personae throughout the series: the spoiled Oliver, who matures during the island flashbacks, the billionaire he plays by day and the Arrow he plays by night. Two of these performances are very strong: His young self is very sympathetic and easily pitied, while his Arrow persona is intimidating and inspires a profound awe factor, dominating the camera

whenever he's on screen. Where Amell is weakest is when he plays billionaire Oliver; while the performance is acceptable, the writing for the series tends to keep the character quagmired in moral quandaries not befitting his determination, and it often changes his moral standpoints in order to best fit the tone of the episode. This makes him a bit inconsistent, which, as

he is the main character, may bother some viewers. The show is, in spirit, a crime drama. Crimes are committed, Queen investigates, Queen intervenes and engages the perpetrators. The setup is fairly formulaic; however, its formulaic nature does not detract from just how engaging the series can be. The plots themselves are consistently well done, with the antagonists consistently engaging in their own ways. The ruthlessness of their actions and, in turn, Oliver's ruthless responses, all manage to create an atmosphere that is easy to fall into. Even Queen's day-to-day affairs, ranging from re-connecting with his family and friends to creating an eccentric name for himself, are all just as enjoyable to watch as the scenes where he is leap-

ing from rooftops. Audiences should expect just as many heartwarming moments as brutal fights.

But let's be honest, the biggest draw to series such as *Arrow* will always be those action scenes. What happened when Queen dons the hood? The series is about a vigilante superhero, so surely there are plenty of over-the-top chases, fights and high-tension moments to keep audiences on edge. And in this regard, the series certainly doesn't disappoint. Fights are well choreographed and evolve as the series progresses. While the *Arrow* may be dancing circles around thugs at the start of the series, don't expect that to last. And as the world rises up to meet the Arrow, his struggles will become that much easier to invest in and cheer for.

Despite some flaws with inconsistent characterization and a slightly clichéd setup and characters, *Arrow* stands as a solid series well worth a watch for any fan of the recent Superhero craze. Audiences fond of the Nolan Batman films should feel right at home following the story of Oliver Queen. While the series does require some suspension of disbelief (after all, it is based on a comic superhero), it comes with a strong enough story, enough drama and enough blood-pumping action to keep all audiences entertained. It is the series we deserve but not the one we need.

Overall rating: 4/5

Errata: Feb. 6

In the Feb. 6 edition of *The News-Letter*, in the review of the Barnstormers show *Proof*, the names of Richard Kidney and Victoria Schroeter were misspelled.

There were also several factual inaccuracies: Catherine's father dies of a heart attack and not mental illness, he is able to form coherent sentences and Catherine never struggles with mental illness.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

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Gertie, John's grandma

And clean your plate or no dessert..."

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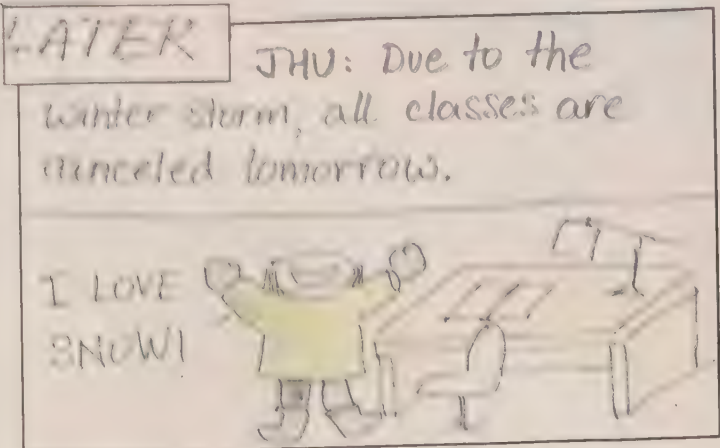
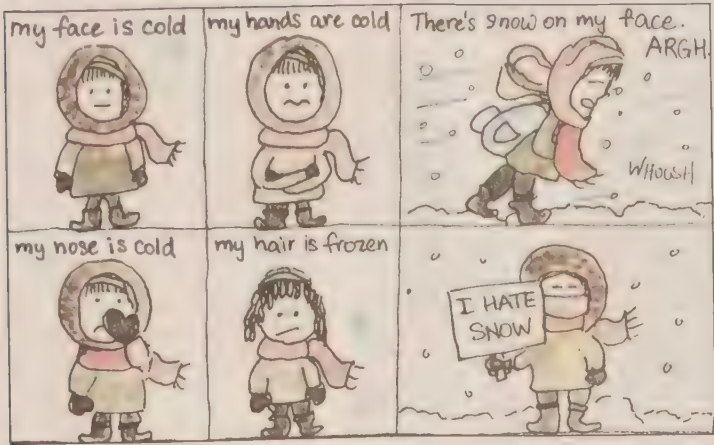
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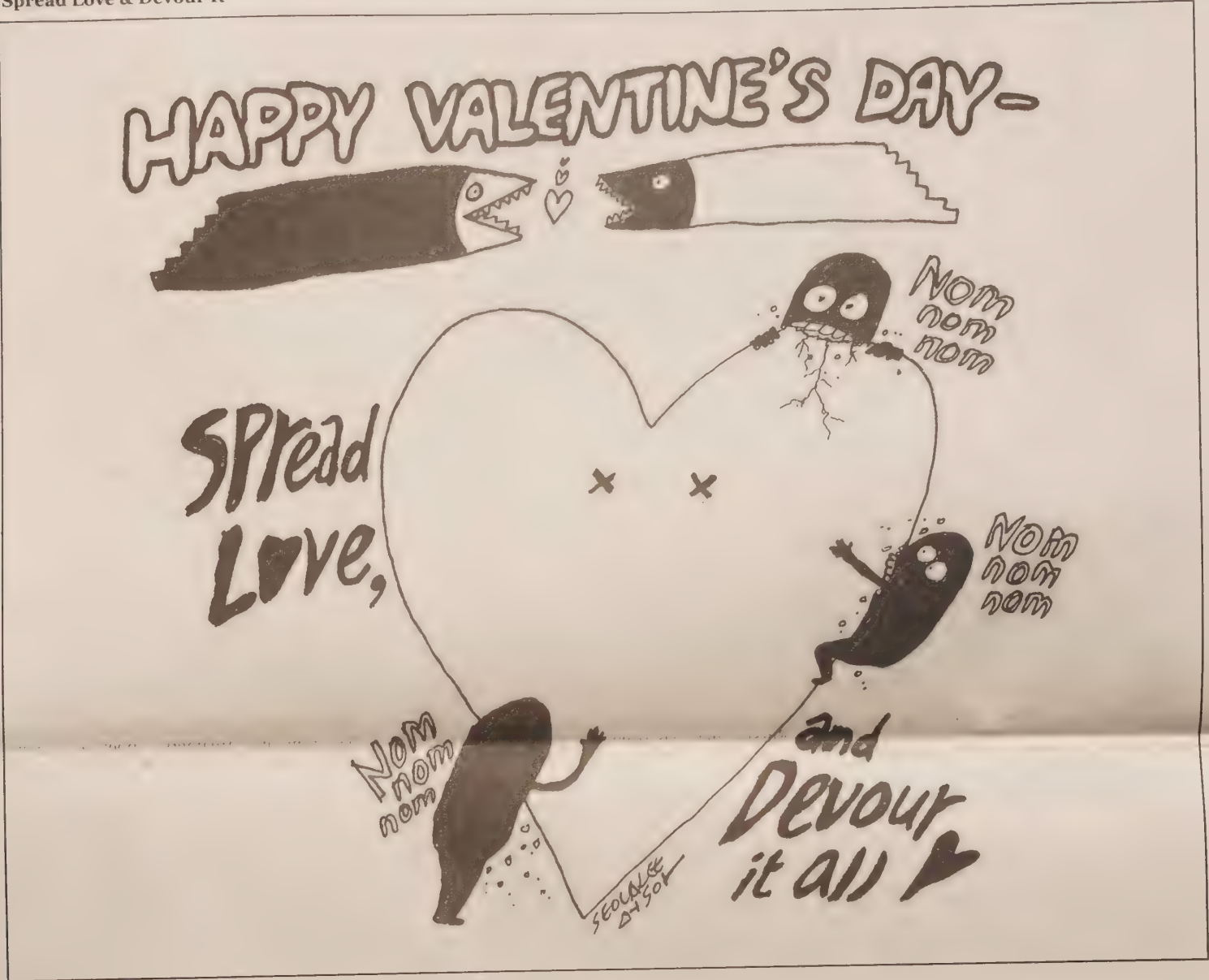
Blue Jay Chronicles

By Sachi



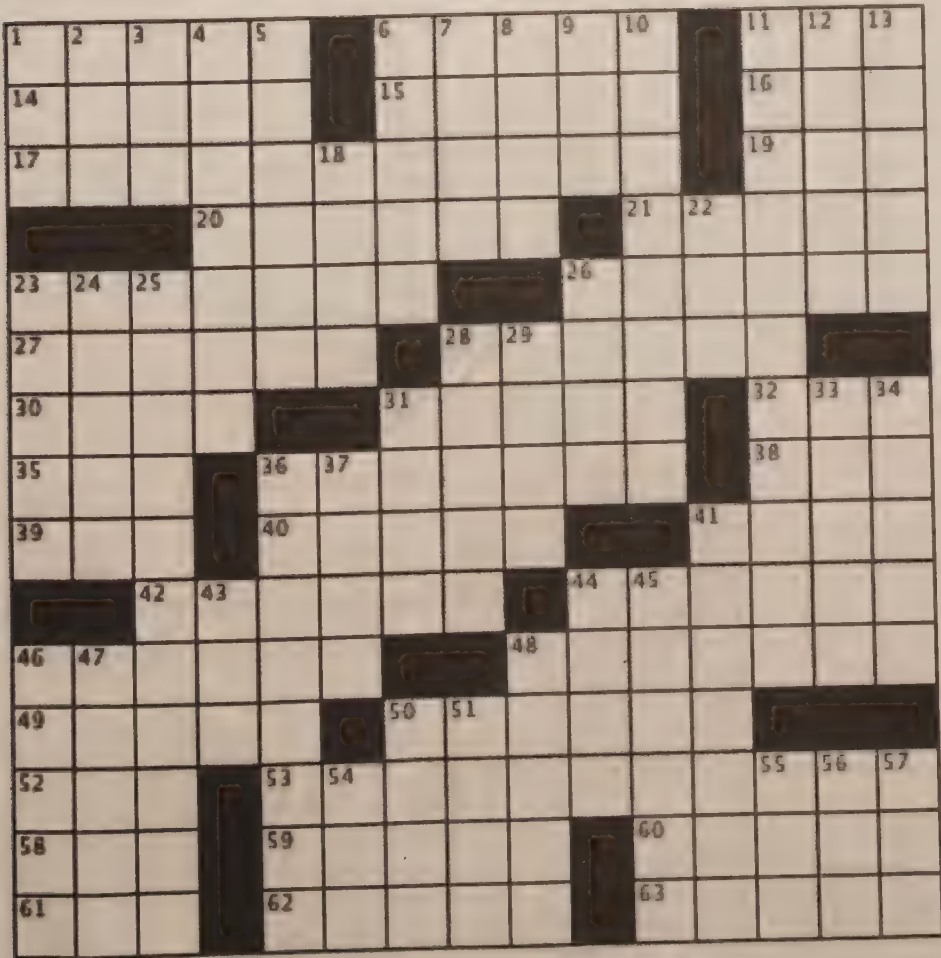
Spread Love & Devour It

By Seola



JHU's LaCross Word

By Shaun McGovern



Across

- 1. Potatoes, informally
- 6. "The Isley Brothers" famous song
- 11. Kah _____ (coffee liquor)
- 14. Nobel Laureates Pierre or Marie
- 15. Swear
- 16. "The _____ Of The Prancing Pony" (Lord of the Rings locale)
- 17. Interior of a port?
- 19. Sn
- 20. Bill Clinton's favorite card game
- 21. "Veritas vos liberabit," e.g.
- 23. Female like
- 26. _____ Memorial Hospital (part of JHU Medicine)
- 27. Loves
- 28. "Dixie Chicks" Maguire
- 30. Not quiet
- 31. Cup, en Français
- 32. Battle of _____ Jima
- 35. North suffix
- 36. Magical concoctions
- 38. "¿Que _____?"
- 39. When to spring forward: Abbr.
- 40. Finnish phone giant
- 41. Lacking head hair
- 42. Pizza type
- 44. Woman's jeans brand
- 46. Madison or Pennsylvania
- 48. "Waynes World" introduction
- 49. Story's lesson
- 50. Egypt's official language
- 52. Container
- 53. National mound?
- 58. Earth-friendly prefix
- 59. Planned occasion
- 60. "30 Rock" Liz
- 61. _____ & Stimp
- 62. Dimples in cars
- 63. ESPN's award show

Down

- 1. _____-fi (film or literature genre)
- 2. Play on words
- 3. It may contain ashes
- 4. Bruce Willis' 1998 hit film
- 5. Calm and peaceful
- 6. Frightening
- 7. "The _____ Locker" (2009 Academy Award Best Picture Winner)
- 8. Spheres
- 9. G.I. entertainers
- 10. Wood eaters
- 11. Small boot country?
- 12. Bring together
- 13. Bother
- 18. Sparks and Holbrook
- 22. _____-Wan Kenobi
- 23. Marked with welts
- 24. Bad smells
- 25. Get up on Dudley Dursley's dad?
- 26. Jr.'s grandfather?
- 28. Owner of a Hopkins bar?
- 29. Oman's continent
- 31. Type of torch
- 33. Not just another face in the crowd?
- 34. Certain days
- 36. Sedaris' "When You Are _____ In Flames"

- 37. Private theater section
- 41. Screws up
- 43. Bambi's aunt
- 44. Rhyme scheme, perhaps
- 45. Pete's
- 46. Shade in "America the Beautiful"
- 47. "The _____" (Hit NBC TV Show)
- 48. Repairman's stock
- 50. Gulf of _____ (between Yemen and Somalia)
- 51. Monthly expense, for the Blackstone residents
- 54. First lady
- 55. Little devil
- 56. Actress Myrna
- 57. Highway dvs.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Poppin' diet pop won't cause the pounds to drop

By JOSH SCARALIA
Staff Writer

To avoid the guilt of downing a regular soda, dieters often grab a diet brand when searching for something to drink. They have less sugar and fewer calories. Therefore, they

must be okay for a weight loss regimen.

Think again. Researchers at the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health recently investigated national patterns in the caloric intake of adult diet soda drinkers. They found that diet drink-

ers actually consume more calories from solid food and have a higher Body Mass Index (BMI) than their regular, non-diet-drinking counterparts.

The reason behind this counterintuitive correlation stems from the supposedly healthy ingredi-

ent of diet soda: artificial sweetener.

Regular sugary foods activate the putamen, insula and rolandic operculum, brain structures that are associated with the body's food reward system, a pathway that controls our appetite and desire for food. This activation tells the body food has been ingested so it begins to curb the appetite. However, when someone ingests artificial sweeteners, activation of these reward centers are altered in such a way that they cannot control the appetite in a normal fashion. So counterproductively, ingestion of diet soda actually stimulates appetite.

Moreover, many researchers believe that artificial sweeteners, particularly Aspartame, can lead to cancer. However, research has yet to prove this claim.

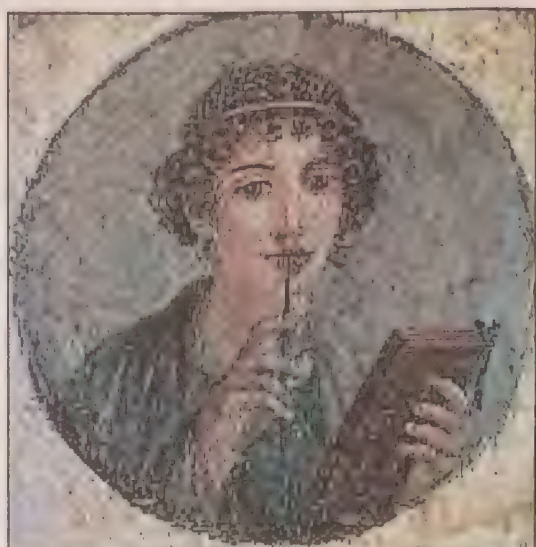
Many professional health nutritionists agree with the results of the Bloomberg School of Public Health study, but for a different reason.

With so much conflicting information about artificial sweeteners in the market, it may be best to curb our sweet tooth.



UVM.EDU

Although artificial sweeteners cut calories, they stimulate appetite and make diet soda drinkers eat more.



UH.EDU

Sappho, an ancient Greek poetess, is known for eroticism in her work.

Ancient poems found in time for Valentine's

By MARU JAIME GARZA
Staff Writer

For better or for worse, Valentine's Day resonates with all of us. Some use the day for inspiration, searching for that special someone. Others attempt to forget the romantic day's existence altogether. A select few turn to literature, hunting for poems that will arouse tender feelings in others.

Fortunately for these more literary among us, two poems were recently discovered by Sappho, a Greek poetess from the 7th century B.C.E. While one of the poems, which were written on ancient papyrus, speaks of a blunted romance, the other is probably more important to academics than romantic dreamers, as it includes biographical information about Sappho's life. This second work will help classicists, historians, archaeologists and anthropologists gain a deeper understanding of the mysterious woman whose writing has been fragmented by time.

The two pieces, dated to around 200 C.E., belong to an anonymous collector who recently showed the works to Dirk Obbink, a classicist

at the University of Oxford. Based on the meter, dialect and themes of the lines, Obbink attributed the poems to Sappho. While this illumination is exciting, being able to attribute the works to Sappho only scratches the surface of academic investigations.

Sappho researchers, in order to better understand the texts and Sappho's relation to them, stress the importance of reconstructing the society in which the poems were written. Greek society of the 7th and 6th centuries B.C.E. was very restrictive for women. This suggests that Sappho was likely one of the few female writers of her time.

In addition to standing out among her fellow poets and songwriters because of her gender, Sappho may have stood out among Greeks because of her birthplace. Sappho came from Lesbos, a Greek island traditionally constructed as a land of beautiful, promiscuous women. Homer, a writer of the 8th century B.C.E., reinforced this stereotype in the ninth book of the Iliad: Seven women of Lesbos are used as equals with gold and horses for

SEE SAPPHO, PAGE B8

Russian men fail to medal in drinking restraint

By MARK STUCZYNSKI
Staff Writer

Soviet Russia jokes aside, a recent study demonstrated that the consumption of vodka

severely decreases Russian lifespans. Nearly a quarter of Russian men die before the age of 55. Most of these deaths can be attributed to acute alcohol poisoning, liver

disease or alcohol-related external conditions, such as suicide, alcohol-related accidents and violence while intoxicated.

Historical data shows that the pre-55 death rate for Russian men has risen and fallen in response to governmental regulations on alcohol as well as the overall economic state of the country.

Key events that marked a decrease in life expectancy were the collapse of the USSR in 1991 and the inflation of the Rouble in 1998. When alcohol regulations were imposed in 1985 and then again in 2006, the overall death rate decreased and the total life expectancy increased.

A recent study published in the Lancet tracked the drinking habits of 151,000 adults from 1999 to 2008. The participating adults also had to provide information on related factors, such as familial perceptions of

drinking and smoking habits.

Despite drastic changes in social conditions during the time of the study, vodka prices and usage were the most consistent factor in determining death rates. Another relevant factor was the purchase of vodka while intoxicated. These results are quite specific, as vodka, rather than alcohol in general, was the factor driving the numbers.

Consumption habits vary between men and women. In general, Russian women consume far less alcohol than men, and they have far lower mortality rates. Overall

SEE VODKA, PAGE B8



UIDAHO.EDU

25 percent of Russian men die before they reach the age of 55.

The world's currency is going digital

By SEAN YAMAKAWA
Staff Writer

No taxation. No central authority. No serious regulation. Welcome to the new economic world of Bitcoin.

For the uninitiated, Bitcoin is a digital and completely decentralized currency. All transactions with Bitcoin are strictly between two individuals, bypassing banks and clearing houses. This do-it-yourself method of financial transactions is praised by its users as preventing centralized authorities from using money as levers of power. Moreover, Bitcoin allows users to enjoy freedom from additional fees per transaction.

Supporters of this system argue that decentralization will drive banking innovation. If Bitcoin enters the market, banks will need to alter their investment methods to keep up with the competition. Furthermore, Bitcoin is internation-

al: purchasing a bitcoin is as easy as going online. This new currency is catching on quickly, as many retailers are now accepting bitcoins. Prominent examples include Overstock.com, Tiger Direct and many Las Vegas hotels. 100 percent kosher. Or is it?

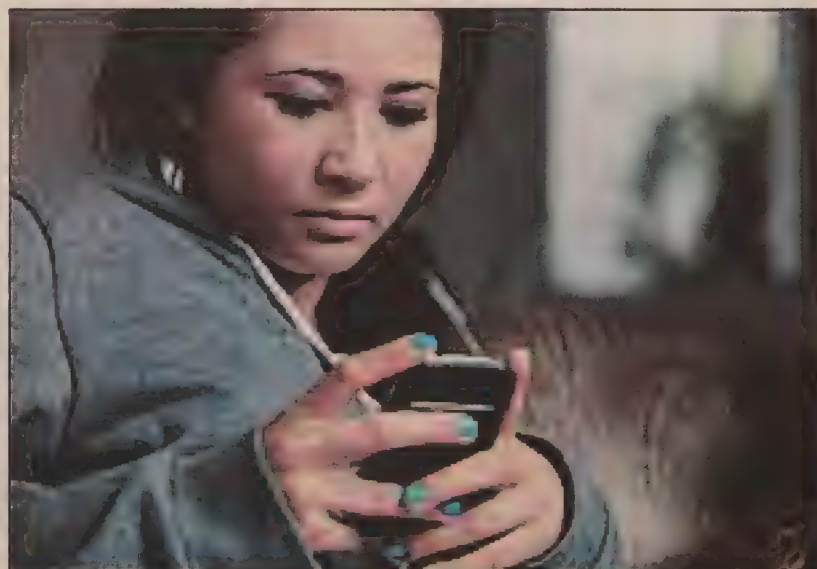
Although Bitcoin advocates complete accountability with Block Chain, a public database of every Bitcoin transaction, the company has been under scrutiny due to its suspected ties to illegal activities. Even

SEE BITCOIN, PAGE B8



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Bitcoin, a digital form of currency, is completely decentralized.



TEENS.SMOKEFREE.GOV

Our addiction to smartphones and laptop computers distracts us from meaningful interactions in life.

Is technology running our lives?

By MIKE YAMAKAWA
Staff Writer

As I do on most mornings, I lay in my bed with my iPhone locked in portrait view so I can go aimlessly through all my social media apps and maybe even read some light-hearted news without lifting my head.

This Saturday morning, I took a peek at Facebook, The Verge and a few other media outlets so I could gradually wake up to some exciting news

about Satya Nadella, the newly appointed Microsoft C.E.O, or to eventually become enraged by one of my friends beating my high score in Flappy Bird (that high score is 54, by the way, which took me way too long to admit).

Incidentally, I found an article about the Flappy Bird creator, who announced that he will be taking down the game within the week. A recent tweet of his reads "I can call 'Flappy Bird' a success of mine. But it also ruins my simple life. So now I hate it." Despite my ad-

diction to the game, I can agree that it's absorbed too much of my time, albeit to a lesser degree than his, obviously. After this Flappy Bird shock, I took a look at some of the other articles in The Verge about hackers looming around to attack vulnerable Sochi visitors and the recurrent incidence of Bitcoin thefts. It seems that technology, the double-edged sword of today's society, seems to be ruining the simple life for most of us.

Our lives are now entirely run by gears and

SEE TECH, PAGE B8



UIDAHO.EDU
The average Russian adult drinks thirteen liters of pure alcohol a year.

Russian men have an extremely short lifespan

VODKA, FROM B7
alcohol consumption has decreased by about a third since 2006, and the death rate among men under 55 has followed this pattern. In 2011, the average Russian adult drank 13 liters, or about 3.5 gallons, of pure alcohol per year. Of this 13 liters, about 8 liters were from spirits, mostly vodka. Since most vodka is about 40% alcohol by volume, the average adult in the study would have imbibed about 200 liters of vodka over the ten year period. Heavy drinkers consumed about a liter and a half of vodka per week during the study. Additionally, the research-

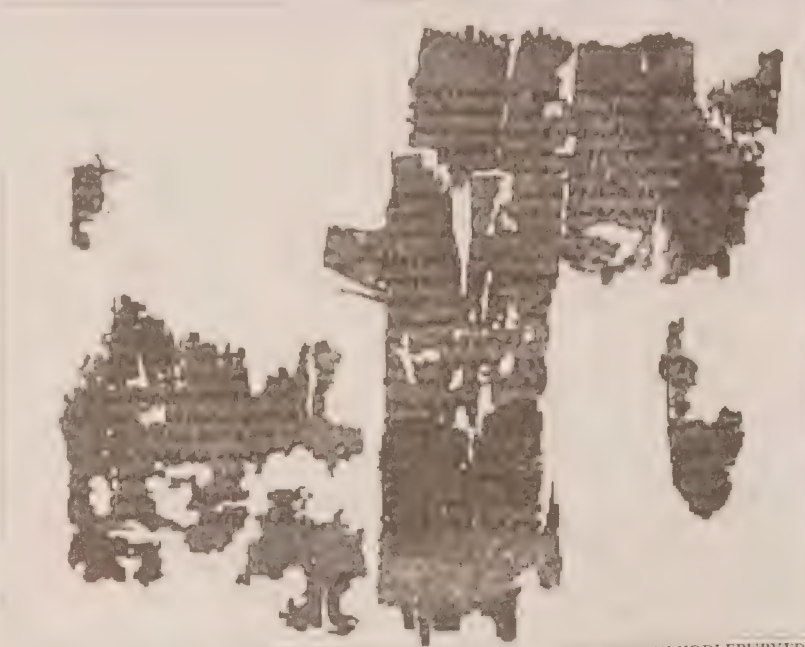
ers found that most consumption occurs during drinking binges rather than through the gradual buildup of more moderate habits.
Heavy vodka consumption seems correlated to low life expectancy for all males in Russia, a dismal 64 years. According to WHO standards, this is among the lowest 50 countries in the world. Decreasing the male mortality rate is likely to present significant problems to Russian culture, as curbing vodka consumption would not simply rid the country of a toxicity, it would unroot a cultural symbol of Russian life.

Sappho's poetry recited to female audiences

SAPPHO, FROM B7
bargaining power. Many of Sappho's writings are described as erotic. Thus, this poetess seems to have distilled the feminine culture of her birthplace into lines of poetry.

This distillation process may have transcended the page, as researchers seem to believe that Sappho intended her words to be performed in front of an audience. Urn-like artifacts from Sappho's time, most notably red-figure hydriai, have been essential to this understanding of Sappho's intentions. One particular hydria depicts Sappho holding a scroll and surrounded by other women. Researchers think this may imply that Sappho's compositions were performed for women's gatherings. This interpretation, along with complex socio-cultural perceptions, have led some investigators to push this view a bit further; they believe that Sappho's texts were homoerotic and may have been performed in a brothel-like environment. However, there has been some academic resistance against this interpretation, as some Sappho investigators have attempted to decipher the surrounding women as Muses and Sappho as a divine figure.

Despite this hydria depiction, some researchers think that Sappho's works may not have been restricted to female gatherings. In the male-dominated society of ancient Greece, men would often get together for drinks, conversation and light entertainment. Because the exact nature



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A private collector unknowingly held Sappho's poetry on ancient papyrus, and discerning them is a difficult task.

of this entertainment is unknown, some historians have speculated that Sappho's texts were read to these male audiences. The tendency of Sappho's works to be used in social gatherings, regardless of the audience's gender, may have broadened the poetess's fame, spreading her name from Lesbos to the Greek Ionian mainland and the adjacent islands.
In ancient Greece, Sappho's fame may have been attributable to more than just her writings. In her texts, Sappho often alludes to performances of her work. She describes musical instruments and often includes other performance-related images and diction. The

specificity of Sappho's allusions have led some ancient historians and ethnomusicologists to conclude that Sappho composed her own melodies. With amazing precision, these researchers think Sappho intended her music to be sung by females in higher tonalities. However, because music was passed down orally, researchers lack written proof of these musical compositions. Nevertheless, through devoted oral transmissions and elegant Greek scripts of text, Sappho has managed to transcend the ages.
Dimitrios Yatromanolakis, a professor in the Classics and Anthropology Departments and the Humanities Center at

Johns Hopkins University and the author of "Sappho in the Making," believes there is still much to explore in Sappho's art. With the discovery of these two spectacular works, all eyes are turned to those capable of discerning the ancient texts. However, the road will not be easy: Discerning these poems will involve a large degree of cultural and literary research.
Despite the thousands of years separating modern people from Sappho, many readers today derive joy from Sappho's ancient songs. Maybe this Valentine's Day a few of us will pass on Sappho's words to a loved one.

Bitcoin currency avoids typical banking hassles and regulations

BITCOIN, FROM B7
with a log of all operations, Bitcoin users are hidden behind a digital screen, separating their faces from their digital footprints. The suspicions of illicit activity were confirmed in October 2013, when the FBI shut down the infamous drug-trafficking website, The Silk Road, and confiscated over 144,000 bitcoins, estimated to be worth \$28.5 million. In a recently published article, the Carnegie Mellon CyLab and the Information Networking Institute estimated that 4.5-9 percent of all bitcoin transactions at the time were held on The Silk Road.
Just as Bitcoin began re-



CHEMISTRY.STANFORD.EDU
Hiding behind a screen during transactions may encourage illicit actions.

cuperating from this scandal, a new series of events tarnished the reputation of the currency. On Jan. 27, Charlie Shrem, the CEO of

Bitcoin exchange company BitInstant, was accused of laundering over \$1 million worth of bitcoins on The Silk Road. Before this,

Shrem was one of the most renowned faces of the Bitcoin community, appearing in a Business Insider profile of Bitcoin Millionaires. Shrem and Robert Faiella, his alleged co-conspirator, are now charged with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and one count of operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. The two could face up to 25 years in prison.
This is a drastic setback for Bitcoin, which has struggled to gain mainstream attraction since its establishment. Many government and law enforcement officials have issued warnings against the use

of Bitcoin. Additionally, the Bitcoin community has not provided answers; the issue of financial security remains questionable even though some Bitcoin transactions reach millions of dollars. With Bitcoin's decentralized system, only the seller and buyer are involved in the transaction. Originally this seemed appealing, but would you take a suitcase filled with five million dollars in cash to a business deal without a third party to moderate?
Despite these fallbacks, the U.S. has decided to let the Bitcoin system play out. In fact, on Jan. 30,

the U.S. Treasury stated that Bitcoin investors will not have to register with the government or comply with certain money-laundering regulations. This, in effect, advocates the purpose of Bitcoin. So, for now, any United States citizen is permitted to use bitcoins to set up transactions and bypass the common, and often loathed, additional bank fees. Will the American economy shift to bitcoins in the near future? It will certainly be interesting to follow the development of this revolutionary currency.

Is technological evolution harming humankind?

TECH, FROM B7
software. I take a look around and cannot spot a single thing that has managed to slip away from the influence of technology. With all of these technological prosthetics that help us live our life without hesitation, it can sometimes be hard to notice that we, humans, are rapidly evolving. GPS-aided Smart Cars have changed how spontaneous we can be when driving. The movie "Her" describes a man who falls in love with a virtual assistant, like Siri, posing a question of whether humans can legitimately find attraction in artificial intelligence one day.

This begs another question: Is technological evolution working against our natural, biological evolution as a species? Despite the virtues of technology, it can actually be leading our species to a world undesired. Internal combustion engines are a typical example of this — the pollution

from automobiles may be shaving off the lifetime of the world we live in. Take diseases as another example. Many of our medical issues are being solved with technological advances. Great. But it can also be argued that some of these problems are being caused by technology itself. For example, the mass extraction and production of sugar has caused countless cases of obesity. Televisions, another product of technology, have exacerbated this situation.
As we struggle with technological consequences like drug addiction and even the trivial case of Flappy Bird taking time away from exercise, we have already entered a generation where we succumb to actions that are not the best decisions for our survival. We are slowly adapting to the ideal world we desire, instead of adapting to what our world is now. This is further complicated by our



OPENLAB.CITYTECH.CUNY.EDU
Cell phones have become a fifth limb for the human species.

market economy, which targets our weak and vulnerable wills to abstain from things we want.
I'm not saying we should rid of all the technology in the world. But

I think we should be cognizant as consumers that our collective decisions in the technological world can easily evolve our species. Just some food for thought.

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter



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Japanese researchers rewind the fate of tissues in stem cell breakthrough

By **KELLY CARTY**
Science&Technology Editor

Embryonic stem cells. My mom told me not to treat them like playthings and Bush told me not to use them in my research. Scientifically, embryonic stem cells are the holy grail of developmental biology. These cells are pluripotent, meaning they can adopt any cell type present in an adult organism. This unrestricted potential allows scientists to test developmental processes in ways completely impossible with differentiated cells. Moreover, embryonic stem cells have important medical implications, as they can be used in regenerative medicine.

However, as demonstrated by the responses of my mother and former President Bush, these extremely valuable tools have been caught in a heated controversy over the past decade. The use of embryonic stem cells requires the death of an embryo. In the case of human embryonic stem cells, this means the death of a human life.

However, thanks to persistent research into the process by which pluripotency can be induced, the necessity of these Promethean tools may be a thing of the past.

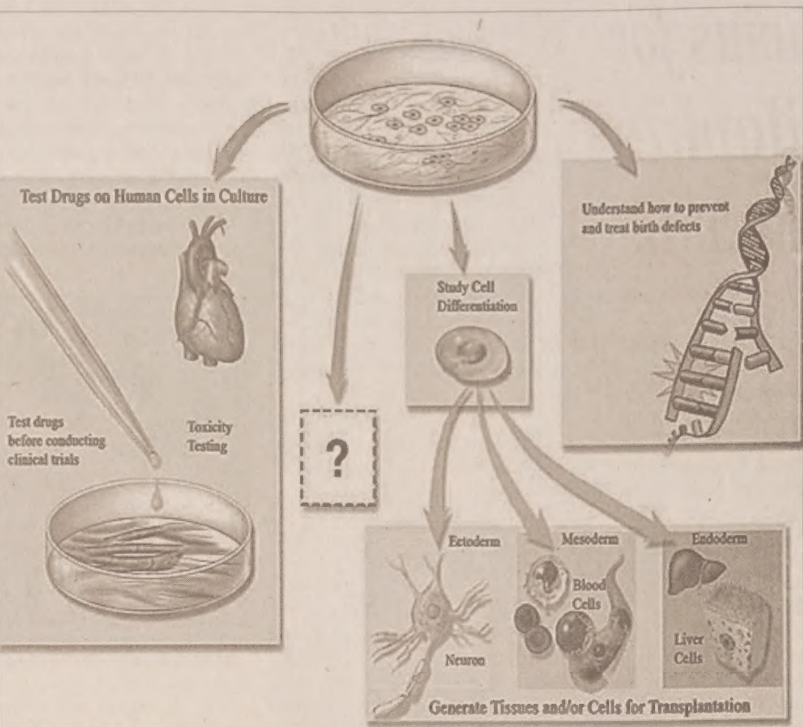
In two papers recently published in *Nature*, a team of researchers from the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, Japan presented a simple method to induce pluripotency. By exposing differentiated cells to external stressors, such as a decreasing pH, these researchers were able to trigger the expression of pluripotent markers. They have termed the process in which fated cells are dedifferentiated by an external stressor stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency (STAP).

Induced pluripotency was first introduced to the scientific world in 2006. While this research was groundbreaking, the techniques this paper describes are extraordinarily cumbersome. Furthermore, the induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells of this study can only be created with a one percent conversion rate. This left the field of

stem cell research stagnant, searching for a viable alternative to embryonic sources.

The techniques and yields of the STAP cells outlined in the recent *Nature* papers may revitalize the field. Haruko Obokata and Yoshiki Sasai, co-authors of the papers and stem-cell researchers at the RIKEN Center, have demonstrated that bacterial toxins, low pH, and physical squeezing can all prompt cells to dedifferentiate, a process observable through pluripotent markers. The conversion rate for STAP cells is much higher than that of iPS cells: 25 percent of the cells undergoing STAP survive the stress and 30 percent of the survivors express pluripotent characteristics.

The results were so impressive that many scientists doubted the validity of the STAP research. In an attempt to put qualms to rest, Obokata demonstrated that the pluripotent markers actually correlated with true pluripotency. She tagged the STAP cells with a fluorescent marker and injected them into



By placing white blood cells into a mildly acidic solution, researchers were able to induce pluripotency. FSTEMCELLS.NIH.GOV

a mouse embryo. If the cells were truly pluripotent, then the fluorescent markers would appear in every tissue type of the resulting adult mouse. For the first few trials, the

mice were only faintly fluorescent. However, by creating STAP cells out of the differentiated cells of newborn mice rather than those of adults, Obokata was able to generate fully fluorescent adults.

Lingering doubts forced Obokata to revisit her research techniques. She stressed T cells, a type of white blood cell that is one of the most specialized cells in the body and thus the furthest from a pluripotent state. Not only did she observe stress-induced pluripotency with these T-cells, she caught the differentiation process on video. If doubts still persist, Obokata may need to hold a seminar for her fellow scientists and perform her magic in person.

In addition to alleviating technical difficulties and producing pluripotent cells with a higher conversion rate, STAP may be scientifically superior to iPS because the resulting STAP cells can form placental tissues. Neither iPS cells nor the extremely controversial embryonic stem cells can do this.

This could have important implications for cloning. At the moment, the cloning process is very involved: the scientist needs to extract an unfertilized egg, transfer a donor nucleus into the egg, cultivate the resulting cells to an embryo stage in vitro, and then transfer the embryo into a surrogate organism. If STAP cells can create a placenta, they could be transferred directly into the surrogate without additional steps.

Scientists in the field of regenerative medicine, which attempts to replace or regenerate damaged tissues and organs, are keeping a close eye on STAP cell developments. With more research, it may be possible to grow whole organs from STAP cells.

This would greatly ease the current strain on the donor pool. Furthermore, if the STAP cell originators were taken from the organ recipient, these STAP organs may have a lower rate of rejection. Eventually, it may also be possible to directly inject STAP cells into patients to stimulate the body's repair mechanism.

At the moment, this option seems quite difficult. Stem cells, regardless of origin, divide nearly uncontrollably. Thus, directly injecting STAP cells into patients may lead to cancerous growths. Despite these obstacles, the marriage between STAP cells and regenerative medicine is likely to be productive.

Planet hogs two stars in astronomical tug-of-war



In a Sci-Fi twist, scientists study astronomical systems where one planet orbits not one but two suns. WWW.STSCLEU

By **MELANIE LEVINE**
Managing Editor

When the inhabitants of Tatooine from *Star Wars* and Gallifrey from *Doctor Who* look up at the sky, they have a very different view from what we're used to — they see two suns.

The planets of *Star Wars* and *Doctor Who* are called "circumbinary planets" because they orbit two stars. While Tatooine and Gallifrey are just popular science fiction examples, circumbinary planets are thought to be fairly common in the universe. In fact, eighteen such systems have been confirmed to date.

The origins of circumbinary planets are complicated. Until recently it wasn't entirely clear how they were able to form. A major logical roadblock for astronomers was the gravitational pull from both stars. Because of the intensity of this pull, any planet attempting to form within a binary star system would likely be beaten down by collisions with the rocky bits that, under less hostile conditions, would slowly merge to form the planet.

So scientists have been posing the same question since the 2003 discovery of the first circumbinary planet: How do these planets even form?

Research published in *Astrophysical Journal Letters* by a team from the University of Bristol found that the planets of circumbinary systems likely form far away from the binary stars and then migrate to their current locations, where they then settle into steady or-

bits. The scientists used computer simulations to recreate the early stages of planet formation. They modeled the collisions between one million individual rocky building blocks and the effects of gravity on both the behavior of the objects in the system and the system as a whole.

"Our simulations show that the circumbinary disk is a hostile environment even for large, gravitationally strong objects," Zoe Leinhardt, one of the study's authors, said in a statement.

Kepler-34(AB)b, a circumbinary planet discovered in 2012 by NASA's Kepler space telescope, was used as a test subject in the study. The Bristol group found that the size of the planet ruled out the possibility of it forming inside the binary star system.

"Taking into account date on collisions as well as the physical growth rate of planets, we found that Kepler 34(AB)b would have struggled to grow where we find it now," Leinhardt said in her statement.

The team extrapolated its results and concluded that all of the confirmed circumbinary planets must have formed at a great distance from their current locations. The only possible exception, they said, may be Kepler-47(AB)c, which is stably situated farther from its stars than any of the other circumbinary planets.

The number of identified circumbinary planets and other exoplanets has skyrocketed since the launch of the Kepler spacecraft in 2009. Kepler

uses a photometer to monitor the brightness of over 145,000 stars and transmits the data for analysis on Earth. Effects like microlensing, the bending of light due to a gravita-

tional field, and partial eclipses of the stars give hints to the presence of planets that cannot be seen directly.

As of July 2013, Kepler has found 134 confirmed exoplanets in its search for Earth-size planets in or near the "habitable zone" that supports liquid water. Along the way, though, its discoveries have shed light on the such mysteries as the origins of circumbinary planets.

"Circumbinary planets have captured the imagination of many science-fiction writers and film-makers — our research shows just how remarkable such planets are," Stefan Lines, the lead author of the study, said. "Understanding more about where they form will assist future exoplanet discovery mission in the hunt for earth-like planets in binary star systems."

Yeast are ready shoulder the energy crisis burden

By **TONY WU**
Staff Writer

Any amateur baker is familiar with the importance of yeast. This microorganism, which eats sugars and produces carbon dioxide as a byproduct in the process, leavens bread. However, the power of yeast extends far beyond bread-making. Researchers under Hal Alper, an assistant professor in Cockrell School of Engineering of The University of Texas at Austin, have managed to create a new yeast strain that can create enormous amounts of lipid from simple sugars. These lipids can be converted into fuel, potentially alleviating the approaching oil shortage.

Situated in the heart of the American oil fields, the researchers at the University of Texas at Austin derived the template for these new yeast from *Yarrowia lipolytica*, a common fat-producing yeast found in foods with high-oil contents such as cheeses and sausages. Ordinarily, *Yarrowia* is composed of 10-15 percent lipid, an extraordinary amount when compared to other microorganisms.

The uncanny ability of *Yarrowia* to create a large

amount of lipids is due to the presence of a compound known as ATP-citrate lyase which many microorganisms lack.

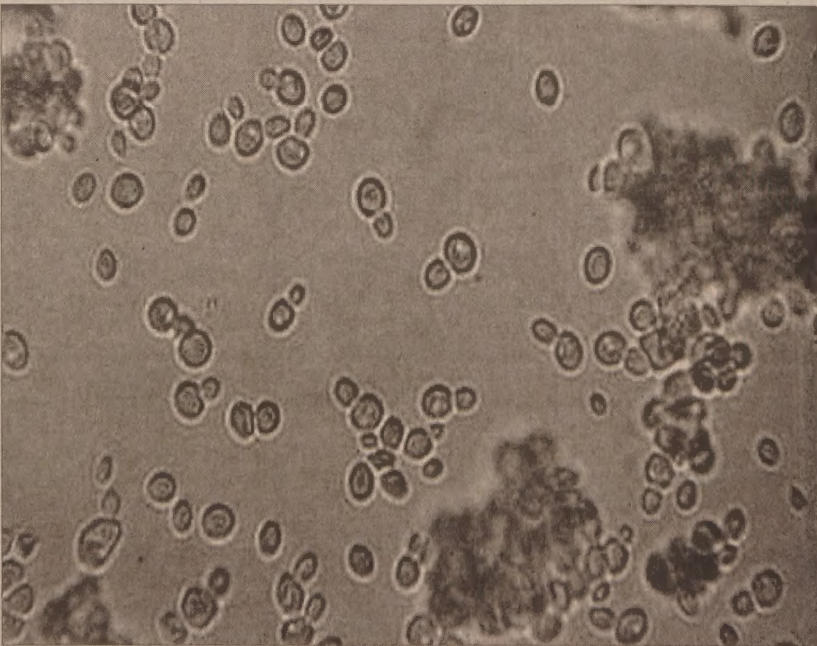
Through a complex series of biochemical reactions, the yeast cell is able to create a store of fatty acids accumulating glucose from the environment and storing it within the cell.

Although the *Yarrowia* possesses an amazing ability to convert sugars into fatty acids, the production

of wild type *Yarrowia* is far too low for industrial purposes. Therefore, the researchers sought to improve the yield.

First, the cells are genetically modified. Some of the genes within the yeast limit fat production of the cell while others promote fat production. By removing the inhibitory genes and overexpressing the fat-promoting genes, scientists are able to boost fat

production. In addition, the yeasts are subjected to abnormal conditions. Normally *Yarrowia* will only store large amounts of lipid during nitrogen-poor conditions. However, by rewriting the genetic code of the *Yarrowia*, the yeast is able to store fatty acids in normal — or even nitrogen-rich — conditions. All these factors result in a new strain of *Yarrowia* containing 90 percent fats.



Researchers rewrite yeast genome to create species that stores fats at a much higher rate than normal. WERC.NEDU

SPORTS

92 career wins for Hopkins' Bewak

WRESTLING, FROM B12

They did so with major decision wins in the 165 and 174 pound weight classes, following a 4-1 Blue Jay victory in the 157 pound weight class by junior Christian Salera. A 9-1 major victory from the Jays' Kyle Spangler (184 pounds) was followed by Mariner victories at the 197 pound class followed by a hard fought victory at the 285 pound class, giving Merchant Marine a 15-7 lead. Hopkins began to mount a comeback, as Bewak and senior Ray Yagloski each won by decision. Senior Henry Stauber gave Hopkins an 18-5 lead by way of technical fall. Crystal was then able to clinch the match for the Blue Jays with a 10-2 major decision over Jack Walsh. Crystal's victory is his tenth in his last 11 matches.

The pair of victories improved the Jays' record to 9-5 overall and 6-1 in the Centennial Conference. Bewak noted the importance of these two conference victories. "They were big (victories) because with a win this Wednesday we will clinch 2nd place in the conference as a team and this will be our first season with 10 team wins," he said.

Bewak also said that the team needs to make some improvements in order to be successful in the post-season. "We need to work on starting the matches off as aggressive as we finish them, we typically have slow starts in individual matches and sometimes we get to far behind to catch up later on," he said.

Bewak's two victories push his career win total to 92 and move him into a tie for second most all time in Hopkins history. Tyler Schmidt, who wrestled for the Jays from 2005-2009, previously held sole possession of second place. Although Bewak has already shown great success in his first two and a half seasons as a Blue Jay, he continues to set his sights on greater accomplishments. "I would like to become a two-time NCAA champion as well as go undefeated next season," Bewak said. The Blue Jays will wrap up league play on Wednesday when the McDaniel Green Terror come to Homewood. This match will be critical if the Blue Jays would like to improve their standing in the Centennial Conference before the post-season commences. As they look to continue to dominate in conference play, the mighty Jays look to carry their momentum into their matchup against the Green Terror.

Fast track at BU aids big day for Hopkins

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

On Feb. 7, the Hopkins men and women's track teams travelled up north to Boston to compete in the Boston University Valentine Invitational. It was a record setting day for both squads, as both teams set numerous season, personal and school records. For the men, sophomore Trevor Holmgren set the school record in the 800 meter with a time of 1:53.04, breaking the record set by teammate senior Andrew Carey in the Bison Open at Bucknell just over a week before. The two runners now rank in the top five nationally in the event, and the top two in school history.

Sophomore Schaffer Ochstein set the Hopkins record in the 5000 meter race with a time of 14:42.46, vaulting him into the top-15 nationally. Freshman Stefan Arnold came close to setting the school record in the indoor 3000 meter race with a time of 8:36.87, Arnold did, however, set the school record for a freshman. Carey moved into the top-20 nationally

in the mile with a time of 4:12.36, and freshman Andrew Barnett tied his personal record in the pole vault by clearing a jump of 4.65 meters, just shy of the school indoor record of 4.67 meters.

For the women, sophomore Megan McDonald

seconds, set just one week ago.

In the 800, Shelton set a personal record for the second week in a row, finishing in 2:11.41, good to retain the top position nationally in the event. Freshman Tess Meehan set the team season record in the



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Hopkins records in the 800 m, 400 m and 4x400 relay were set at BU.

now sits atop the school record book in the 400 meter run with a time of 57.34. McDonald was also a part of the record-breaking 4X400 relay team, which included sophomore Emily Nordquist, junior Ingrid Johnson and senior Maggie Shelton. The four turned in a time of 3:55.43, which easily broke the previous record by eight

mile, with a time of 5:02.33. Lastly, junior Frances Loeb set a career-best in the 5000 with a time of 17:08, which was also good for the team season record.

Holmgren attributed his record-breaking success in the meet to the senior leadership on the team. "For me (being) from the west coast, indoor racing is still a little unfamiliar, but I am

honored to work with and learn from more experienced team members like Andrew Carey," Holmgren said. "I can hardly wait to see what new record he is breaking and I am just thrilled if I can stay not too far behind."

Carey stated that the success was also due to the fast track and deep competition at the meet. "BU is a super fast track and the competition there is pretty deep," he remarked. "It's a lot easier to run fast when the other people in your heat are running fast too."

Holmgren commented on the team's goals moving forward. "The team has had a great indoor season so far and we are committed to working hard so that we have more chances to improve our records at the Centennial Conference and beyond," he said.

Both teams next compete at the Keogh Invitational at Haverford on Feb. 22, with Centennial Conference Championships also taking place at Haverford a week later. We wish both teams luck as they wrap up their indoor season and transition into the outdoor portion of their season.

USTFCCCA Women's Poll

1. Wartburg
2. CW-La Crosse
3. MIT
4. UW-Oshkosh
5. UW-Whitewater
6. Williams
7. St. Thomas (Minn.)
8. Johns Hopkins
9. Wheaton (Mass.)
10. Amherst
11. Washington (Mo.)
12. Illinois-Wesleyan
13. Emory
14. UW-Stout
15. North Central
16. Monmouth
17. St. Scholastica
18. Middlebury
19. St. Lawrence
20. Westminster (Pa.)

Just Missed: RPI, SUNY-Cortland, Baldwin-Wallace, Springfield (Mass.), Stevens

M. Basketball holds off Swarthmore rally

By JASON PLUSH
Sports Editor

In what was sure to be one of the most competitive games of the season, the Hopkins men's basketball team welcomed the Swarthmore Garnet into Goldfarb Gym on Saturday afternoon, as the two teams got ready to face off for the second time this season. In the first matchup between these Centennial Conference rivals earlier in January, the Jays cruised to an impressive 76-47 rout of Swarthmore in front of the Garnet's home crowd. However, the second time around proved to be a much tougher test for the Blue Jays, as they were able to slip past the resilient Swarthmore squad for a 60-53 win. Hopkins improved to 13-8 on the season with a record of 10-4 in conference play. As a result of this critical win, the Blue Jays maintained third place in the Centennial Conference standings.

The game got off to a slow start for both teams.

After consistently trading baskets for the first eight minutes, Hopkins finally found some rhythm in the offensive end of the court. After a dart three-pointer by sophomore Gene Williams, the Jays stretched their lead to 11 points with just under 10 minutes to go in the first half. The lead continued to increase throughout the rest of the first half as Hopkins took

cut the Blue Jay lead to one point. After controlling the pace of the game on both sides of the ball, the Blue Jays were forced to burn a timeout and reassess their defensive strategy. Coming back from the timeout, sophomore Niko Kotoulas reignited the energy of the Hopkins squad by scoring their first points of the second half on a beautiful layup to extend the lead

fense, which had regained its stride after struggling in the beginning of the half. With nine and a half minutes remaining on the clock, the Jays maintained a steady 11-point advantage. However, the Garnet came storming back scoring seven points to cut the lead back down to four.

Once again, it was Kotoulas who brought life back into Goldfarb, as he was fouled while making a great layup. After converting from the stripe, Kotoulas and the Jays held a seven point lead. For the remainder of the game, the two teams traded baskets. Juniors Jimmy Hammer and Omar Randall made critical free throws after being fouled in the final two minutes of the game. The game ended in favor of the Blue Jays, 60-53, to bring them into double digits for wins in Centennial Conference play. The Jays now hold a three game winning streak after facing the toughest part of the schedule throughout January.

Kotoulas was the most valuable player of the game for the Jays, as he provided consistent, critical offense when the team was struggling to score. The sophomore guard finished the game with 14 points, converting six of his eight field goals and grabbed four rebounds on the day for the Jays. Corbett finished the game with nine points and two assists but played an even more crucial role on defense, as he intercepted five passes for steals. Sophomore Gene Williams was the only other Blue Jay to hit double figures, as he scored 10 points to fuel the Jays offense.

This is a critical time of the season for the team as they head towards Centennial Conference playoffs. The Blue Jays will look to keep their winning streak in tact over the weekend when they face off against Dickinson for the second time this season. The mighty Jays will be looking to avenge their loss against the Red Devils back in mid-January where Hopkins lost by 10 points. The game is set to start at 1 p.m. in Goldfarb Gym on Saturday. As the Blue Jays head towards the last stretch of games in their season, they will look to gain some momentum and maintain their winning ways heading into playoff season.

Olympics proving a challenge for USA

By ERICK SUN
Sports Editor

The 2014 Olympics in Sochi looked to be, like every Olympics, an opportunity for the United States to prove their athletic prowess on the world stage.

From the men's ice-hockey team looking to avenge their 2010 silver medal against Canada, to Shaun White, the flamboyant snowboarding legend, looking to earn his third straight Olympic gold in the halfpipe, America had high hopes as the Opening Ceremonies kicked off.

And yet, with just under a week of competition behind us, the United States has had a tough go at it against a talented field. In the halfpipe event, where Shaun White was the heavy favorite to medal once again, the 27-year old rider finished a disappointing fourth behind German louri Podladtchikov and two Japanese snowboarders.

Elsewhere on the snow, American mogul skier Hannah Kearney earned a bronze medal, which, for most, would have been an accomplishment to boast of. However, like White, Kearney had been the heavy favorite after winning gold in the moguls in 2010. Yet a costly mistake in the medal round allowed Canadian Justine Dufour-Lapointe to earn gold.

And yet it has not been all disappointment for the red, white and blue. In the first day of competition, Sage Kotsenburg won the first ever gold in men's slopestyle after pulling off a 1620 Japan Air Mute Grab, a trick he had never attempted before. And fellow American slopestyle snowboarder Jamie Anderson took home gold in the event for the women.

Despite the challenges so far, most of the Games have yet to be played. And US fans can look forward to events such as ice dancing and ice hockey, which should make for must-see TV.



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Hopkins surrendered a 34-19 half-time lead to Swarthmore before pulling out the victory.

a 34-19 lead into the locker room, feeling very confident about their success in the first half.

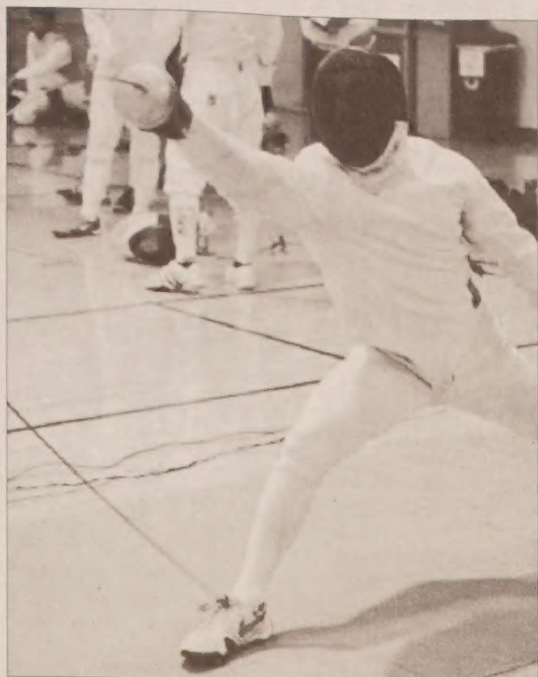
The beginning of the second half was a complete reversal of the first half for the Blue Jays as the Garnet came out firing on all cylinders to start off the second stanza. Swarthmore dominated the first seven minutes of the half, scoring 15 straight points to

three. After this critical basket, the Jays went on an inspired 13-3 run led by senior Daniel Corbett and junior George Bugarinovic, who combined for nine of the points during the run.

Having regained their double digit lead once again, the Jays were able to maintain a sizable lead for the next few minutes of play as the Garnet simply could not stop the Hopkins of-

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
Lacrosse	Track	M. Basketball	W. Basketball
Feb. 9, 2014 vs. Ohio State W, 10-9 (3OT)	Feb. 7 - Feb. 8, 2014 @ BU Invitational Men: Pole Vault: Barnett, 5th Women: 400 m: McDonald, 57.34	Feb. 8, 2014 vs. Swarthmore W, 60-53	Feb. 8, 2014 vs. Bryn Mawr W, 83-24
M. Fencing	W. Fencing	Wrestling	Swimming
Feb. 8, 2014 @ Duke Invitational 2-3 Feb. 9, 2014 @ Drew Invitational 5-0	Feb. 9, 2014 @ EWFC Championship 6-0	Feb. 7, 2014 @ Messiah L, 33-9 Feb. 8, 2014 vs. Muhlenburg W, 55-0	Feb. 8 - Feb. 9, 2014 @ VT Invitational Men: 200 IM: Johnson, 1st Women: 100 Free: Westley, 1st

SPORTS



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Women's fencing captured their fifth straight EWFC Championship.

Women's Fencing goes 6-0, Men finish 2-3

Lady Jays epee goes undefeated

By RACHEL COOK
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's fencing team went undefeated at the 2014 Eastern Women's Fencing Conference to claim its fifth consecutive title. Going 6-0 on the day, the Blue Jays are now 16-7 and are also finished with the dual-meet portion of their season. With a 45-6 record through six matches, Hopkins won its fourth strait Foil title.

Opening the day against the host Hunter College, the Blue Jays went 25-2 with senior Jackie Heath, junior Ilana Regenbogen and sophomore Ashley Lau combining for nine wins. Also going 9-0 were senior Liz Caris and freshmen Katherine Couch and Rachel Jandak in the Epee. In the Sabre, junior Rachel Kalina and sophomore Isabella So won three bouts apiece pushing Hopkins to a 7-2 victory. In the second round, Hopkins went completely undefeated with a 27-0 win over Yeshiva.

In round three, Hopkins defeated Drew with a score of 24-3. Heath led the Blue Jays in the Foil, winning all three of her bouts. Also assisting in the Foil was Lau and Regenbogen, who each won a pair in the 7-2 win. A shutout in the Epee was led by Green and Caris while Kalina and So combined for six wins in an 8-1 win in the Sabre.

Hopkins would then follow with an 18-9 victory over the City College of New York, while winning the Foil and Epee. So would have three wins in the Sabre, however, CCNY would claim the Sabre by a close 5-4 score.

Hopkins took a close 15-12 decision over Haverford despite winning only the Foil. Viqueira won all three of her bouts while getting two each from Heath and Lau in a 7-2 win in the Foil for the Blue Jays.

Heath, who went 13-1 on the day and 54-17 on the season, led the Foil squad. Viqueira followed behind with 11 wins in 12 bouts to improve to 44-14 on the season while also earning her 100th career win. Leading the Epee squad was Jandak, who went 11-1 on the day and now holds a season record of 28-8. Leading the Sabre squad was So who went undefeated on the day with an 18-0 record and 42-19 on the season.

The Hopkins men's fencing team went 2-3 overall this past weekend at the Duke Invitational. Leading the team on Saturday was sophomore Glenn Balbus who won a team-

best 13 bouts. Balbus' performance helped guide the Blue Jays to a 19-8 victory over MIT and a 17-10 victory over Air Force. Unfortunately, Hopkins suffered losses to Brandeis (18-9), North Carolina (18-9) and to 10th-ranked Duke (18-9). Hopkins is now 12-9 on the season.

Starting the day off against Brandeis, the Blue Jays would lose all three weapons by a score of 6-3. Sophomore Mark Zimmermann led Hopkins in the Epee with a pair of wins with Balbus doing the same in the Foil and junior Aravind Menon also doing so in the Sabre.

The Blue Jays then took on the Air Force Academy, sweeping all three weapons. Zimmermann and senior Jay DeYoung together totaled four wins, while DeYoung came through with the clutch win in the eighth bout of the Epee. In the Foil, Balbus provided three wins, giving Hopkins an easy 7-2 win. In the Sabre, winning two bouts each were junior Paul Vitale and freshman Patrick Rose, with Rose clinching the win in the eighth bout.

In the next round, Hopkins picked up their second straight win by defeating the Engineers of MIT. Counteracting a 5-4 loss in the Epee, was a 7-2 win in the Sabre and an 8-1 win in the Foil. Leading the Foil was senior Evan Stafford who won all three of his bouts. In the Sabre, Menon, Rose and freshman Daniel Dembner combined for six wins in the Blue Jays victory.

The following round would see North Carolina stopping the Blue Jays win streak. The Tar Heels swept all three weapons allowing only one win apiece from DeYoung, sophomore Brent Schottenfeld and freshman Dylan Etzel in a 6-3 loss in the Epee. Combining in four wins in the 4-5 loss were Balbus and Stafford, while Rose won a pair in the 2-7 loss in the Sabre.

Ending the day against the host Duke, the Blue Jays were able to grab a 6-3 win in the Foil with the help of Balbus, who won three bouts, and junior Robert Goldhirsch, who earned a pair of wins. Zimmermann provided the only win in the 1-8 loss in the Epee for Hopkins while Menon earned two wins for the Blue Jays in the 2-7 loss in the Sabre.

Both teams return to action on 2/16: the women at the EWFC Individual Championship and the men at the NJIT Invitational.

By STEVEN HYLAND
Staff Writer

The Boston University Valentine Invitational, which runs every February on one of the quickest indoor tracks in the country, always produces some of the fastest times in the nation year after year. This past weekend, the Hopkins track and field team certainly used the track to their advantage when they shattered eight school records during the meet.

On Monday, sophomore Megan McDonald was named the Centennial Conference women's track athlete of the week after she set the Hopkins record in the 400 meter run (57.34) and as a part of the women's 4x400 relay team (3:55.43) at the BU Valentine Invitational last Friday. Capping off her already impressive weekend, McDonald ran as part of the DMR on Saturday (11:58.38) with a blistering 400 leg (56.4). For her performances last weekend, *The News-Letter* would proudly like to announce Megan as our selection for Athlete of the Week.

The News-Letter: You are coming off a huge weekend at the BU Valentine Invitational, having run three outstanding races in 24 hours. What mindset do you take into multiple day meets in order to produce several outstanding races?

Megan McDonald: I just try to take it one race at a time. It's easy to get overwhelmed knowing that I

have a bunch of hard races ahead of me, but usually if I just focus on one at a time and if I don't stress about [my races] I can succeed in all of them. Being on relays makes it more manageable too because we help motivate each other even when we are all exhausted.

N-L: Your open 400 time of 57.34 broke the overall school record in the event. How did it feel coming off the track knowing you had broken your own record this early in the season?

MM: It honestly didn't feel that fast at all because I got boxed in a little towards the last 100 so I didn't think I had even run a faster time than I did last week. Then I stepped off the track and saw that Emily [Nordquist] looked really happy so I looked at the screen with the times and was pretty much shocked. It was really exciting to PR by so much so early in the season.

N-L: Statistically speaking, you own school records in the 400m dash, 400m hurdles, indoor 4x400 and as a part of the indoor and outdoor Distance Medley Relay. That's quite an impressive résumé for a sophomore! How have you been able to improve yourself as a runner since becoming a member of the team last year?

MM: I've never really realized how many school records I have to be honest. . . I just take it all in stride and am just grateful to be part of such an incredible team. It's a lot

more fun now as a sophomore since I know everyone on the team a lot better and have a lot more

open 400. What are your goals for the coming post-season?

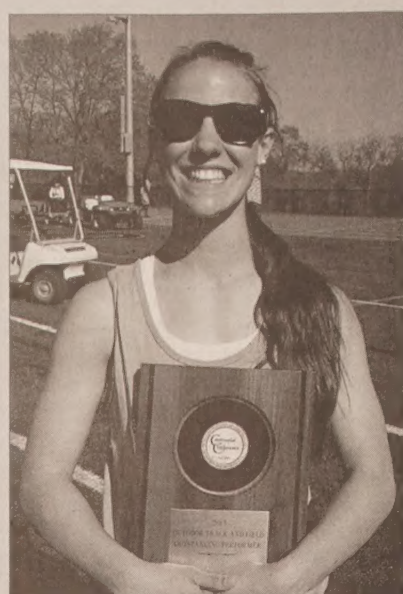
MM: I'm usually pretty level headed even at big races. I get more nervous at more competitive meets, but I usually try to channel that into being excited about racing instead of getting too nervous in a negative way.

N-L: The women's indoor and outdoor track and field team has won seven straight conference titles since

2010. What's it like being a part of such a winning culture? What are your expectations for conferences this season?

MM: We have an incredible team this year so it should be really fun to go out this year and continue to try and win and score in as many events as possible. The atmosphere is always really fun at conferences, so I'm looking forward to [that meet].

The Hopkins women's track and field team will return to the track on Feb. 22 at the Keogh Invitational hosted by Haverford. The Centennial Conference Championship begins on Feb. 28, and the Division III National Championship begins on March 14 at the University of Nebraska. McDonald and the entire team look poised, confident and very prepared heading into the playoff stretch of their season.



COURTESY OF MEGAN McDONALD
McDonald (right) as CC Outstanding Performer in 2013.

confidence in my ability to do well.

N-L: Adding to your athletic achievements, you are also a Biomedical Engineer at Hopkins! How have you been able to balance running and schoolwork in order to succeed in two extremely competitive environments?

MM: It's definitely tough sometimes to balance the ridiculous workload here and dedicating so much time to track, but it just takes a lot of thinking ahead and dedication. I manage to make it work for the most part. Some weeks are definitely harder than others, but I can't imagine being a student here without being an athlete too.

N-L: Last year you became a Division III All-American as part the DMR. Right now, you are ranked first in the DMR, seventh in the 4x4 and ninth in the

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Megan McDonald
Year: Sophomore
Height: 5' 5"
Position: Sprint/Hurdles
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Hometown: Arden, NC
High School: TC Roberson

Benn pushes Hopkins past no. 9 Ohio State

By ZACH ZILBER
Staff Writer

Amid chants of "D-Fense!" from the roughly 1,400 in attendance, the ball went soaring into the air.

With 3:30 left in the third overtime, Ohio State coughed up a game-changing turnover. Cheers erupted from the stands as Hopkins called a timeout 15 seconds later.

When play resumed, sophomore midfielder Holden Cattoni found himself with the ball at the top of the box. He dished it out to last year's leading goal scorer, senior attackman Brandon Benn and the Buckeyes' fate was sealed.

Benn faked to his left, cut to his right and fired a laser past the helpless goalie. Game over. 10-9, Hopkins.

Benn, whose second goal capped a triple overtime thriller, shot a team-high 10 times but did not let his mistakes prevent him from putting the ball in the back of the net.

"In my four years I've been taught not to worry about the previous play because I didn't shoot the ball well today at all," Benn said. "I just decided to dodge the guy and shoot, and I guess I got a good result."

Benn was one of eight different Hopkins players to score on the day as the Blue Jays showcased the much anticipated new-look offense.

The game began with a quick Ohio State goal just over one minute into the game before sophomore attackman Ryan Brown responded seven minutes

later. The Buckeyes would tack on a second goal before the end of the first quarter.

Sophomore midfielder Connor Reed began the second quarter with his first career goal and tied the game at two. As Hopkins players bounced on the sideline and fans cheered in the stands, there was a very noticeable shift in momentum before the Blue Jays erupted in the third quarter.

"We just wanted to put it all out on the table and show what we've been working on all year," junior attackman Wells Stan-

After the teams traded goals, Benn scored his first of the day to put Hopkins up 7-4 and extended his goal streak to 17 games. After a Buckeye goal, a diving Stanwick scored his first of the day on an assist from Benn, who matched his assist total from all of last year on the play.

Hopkins would exit the third quarter with an 8-5 lead, as the Blue Jays outshot the Buckeyes a ridiculous 34 shots to 18 shots. The game, however, was far from over.

The fourth quarter began with the teams swapping goals before the de-

en back after the referees ruled he was in the crease. The game would go into overtime.

As the fans were screaming, "Let's go Hop!" at the top of their lungs, junior midfielder Drew Kennedy won the overtime faceoff. A Stanwick turnover two minutes later gave Ohio State an opportunity. The Buckeye offense fired three times in succession, but Schneider kept the game alive, saving a dart shot by King.

An Ohio State turnover at the start of the second overtime gave the Blue Jays hope, but Benn's shot went wide. Hopkins then turned the ball over and with 30 seconds remaining, senior defenseman Jack Reilly got called for slashing, putting Ohio State up one man. Another save from Schneider ensured Hopkins would play in just its second triple overtime game in the program's history.

Though the Buckeyes began a man up, the turnover at 3:30 would prove to be fatal. Hopkins would go on to win the game 10-9 on Benn's game-winning, triple overtime goal.

Though the Blue Jays won 19 of the game's 24 face-offs, they lost 20 turnovers to Ohio State's 14. Pietramala was adamant in pointing out the team's need to "clean up" its play.

"Fortunate win with 20 turnovers, that's for sure," Pietramala said. "That's for sure."

The Blue Jays improve to 5-0 all time against Ohio State and 20-10 in overtime games under Pietramala. They will now turn their attention to Towson, who will visit Homewood Field this Saturday at 4 p.m.



BRETT BRODSKY/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Defense helps to capture the first win of the season for the Blue Jays.

wick said of the offensive explosion.

The second half began with a goal from senior captain Rob Guida and just a minute later, freshman attackman John Crawley scored his first career goal to put Hopkins up two. After a 25 minute drought, Ohio State punched in a goal of their own. Cattoni responded one minute later with a goal of his own on an assist from Stanwick, who assisted each of the five Hopkins goals and matched his career high in the statistic.

fense collapsed. In a span of 3:45, the Buckeyes scored three goals to tie the game with 3:07 remaining. In that span, Buckeye midfielder Jesse King scored his fourth and fifth goals of the game. Head Coach Dave Pietramala acknowledged the exceptional performance from the Buckeye junior.

"We spent an awful lot of time talking about him," Pietramala said.

After a remarkable save from senior goalie Eric Schneider, Brown had his third goal of the day tak-

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Last Sunday's lacrosse game against Ohio State was the second longest game in the program's history. The only game longer occurred in 2001 against Virginia.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

M. Basketball vs. Dickinson, 1 p.m.
M. Lacrosse vs. Towson, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

W. Basketball vs. McDaniel, 6 p.m.

Men's Lax opens with triple overtime thriller



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

The men's lacrosse team got their season started on the right foot by knocking off ninth ranked Ohio State. The game was filled with offense, but it was Hopkins' defense that shined in the third overtime to allow senior attackman Brandon Benn to net the game winning goal. Please see Page B11 for full coverage.

Blue Jays swimmers qualify for nationals

By SCOTT SHEEHAN
Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, the men's and women's swim teams capped off their dominant regular seasons with a win against Mary Washington. The women's team finished with a 6-2 record, and the men ended with a 7-1 record. This past weekend, the teams went to Virginia Tech for one last meet before conferences begin. Hopkins was up against some tough D1 competition, but they were able to stay up front with the rest of the competition the way they had done all season.

"Coach loves watching us go fast," senior David Woodford, who qualified for nationals this weekend in the 100 back and fly, said. "I do believe he likes to schedule the toughest competition within the Virginia to New Jersey area. Going into Virginia Tech wasn't much different than any other meet. They are swimmers just as we are, and they are going to be fast and we have to try our hardest to be faster. As it can be seen by the results, we were right there with the other teams so I feel we accomplished our goals and then some."

Woodford got the team off to a great start on Saturday, qualifying for nationals in two events. He swam a 51.00 in the prelims of the 100 back, which was a career best and qualified him for nationals in the event. Later that day he won the 100 fly in 49.91 for his second career best and national qualifying time of the day, allowing him to achieve his meet goals.

"Personally, going into the Virginia Tech meet, my goals were to qualify for the 100 back and 100 fly," Woodford said. "Those were the only events I swam, and I was able to do what I set out to do. What is also special about those swims is it only takes one good swim at a meet to inspire others to go fast, and I like to think I helped others go fast by leading by example."

This proved to be the case as the next day four swimmers on the men's team qualified for nationals, including three freshmen. Freshman Scott Sterrett led the team in the 200 breast finishing in second place, just ahead of his teammate, freshman Bryan Pon. Sterrett swam a season best and NCAA provisional time of 2:05.35.

After Sterrett qualified in the 200 breast, freshmen Patrick Flynn and Josh Hughes and sophomore Michael McGoldrick all followed with NCAA provisional times. Flynn

took second in the 200 back in a time of 1:50.66 while McGoldrick and Hughes went three-four in the 1650 free with times of 15:58.10 and 16:02.45, respectively. Freshman Connor Johnson also turned in a strong performance winning the 200 IM by more than two seconds in 1:54.66.

The women's team turned in many career best and NCAA qualifying times as well. On day one of the meet, freshman Ariana Waitkavicz posted provisional time in the 100 back finishing fourth in the A final in a career best of 57.80. Freshman Helena Arose and senior Katie Rownd had a solid day as well finishing two-three in the 400 IM with times of 4:47.80 and 4:50.02, which was a season best for Rownd. They followed this with the 100 breast where Arose placed seventh in a stacked A final with a time of 1:10.01. Rownd won the B final with another career best time of 1:11.65.

Day two got off to a great start with freshman Sarah Westley winning the B final of the 100 free in 54.67 and sophomore Megan Auzenberg finishing third in 55.95. Arose and Rownd continued their success from day one, finishing fifth and eighth on the 200 breast with times of 2:27.49 and 2:35.06 respectively. Waitkavicz had another provisional time in her prelim of the 200 back, finishing in 2:05.18. She grabbed sixth in the finals and later placed fifth in the 200 IM in 2:15.93 after swimming a season best of 2:12.66 in the prelim.

The team has a lot to be pleased with this weekend and should have a strong momentum bringing them into the Bluegrass Mountain. Conference Championships this week. Woodford said that the goal going into this week's meet is to continue to qualify more people for nationals but, more importantly, to continue to have fun.

"Going into conferences we want to keep the trend going of getting as many people to qualify for nationals as possible," Woodford said. "For some other swimmers who went to Virginia Tech but did not go as fast as they would have liked, conferences is their last chance to make nationals. More than that though we want everyone to have fun. You can be the world's greatest athlete but if you don't like what you're doing then you won't do your best. This part of the season is a culmination of hard work, teamwork and doing what we love. This is where we race."



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Senior David Woodford qualifies for two events at nationals this year.

INSIDE

Wrestling: 4-1 in Centennial

Against two nationally ranked opponents in the Centennial Conference, the Blue Jays wrestling team held their own in earning a split against Stevens and Ursinus. **Page B10**

Athlete of the Week: Megan McDonald

The sophomore set school records in both the 400-meter run and the 4x400 relay. She was also recognized as the Centennial Conference women's track athlete of the week. **Page B11**

Men's Lacrosse: Season Preview

After a disappointing 2013 season, the men's lacrosse team looks to return to prominence with a new offense, changing defense and a schedule packed with top competition. **Page B10**

INSIDE

McCullagh scores career-high 19

By ALEX PICANO
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's basketball team dominated against Bryn Mawr on Saturday afternoon, finishing with a score of 83-24 and improving their record to 15-6. This was the highest point total of the season for the Lady Jays, as every player scored at least two points in the game. It was without a doubt one of the most dominant performances that the team has had all season long.

Hopkins took an early lead by going on a 13-0 run and never looked back. The Lady Jays stayed ahead for the rest of the day. Junior Jessica Brown put in a very strong performance, finishing the game with a personal season-high of 10 points.

She commented on the success of the team this year. "As a team, we are working really hard together to prepare for the last few games of our regular season so we can finish out strong and carry that momentum into playoffs," Brown said.

Freshman Caroline Corcoran also posted her career-high score with nine points in the game. She echoed Brown's sentiments. "It was great getting another conference win. It was an all-around team effort," Corcoran said. "I was happy to be able to contribute towards the team win. We are looking to finish the season on a strong note to prepare us for the upcoming conference tournament."

Sophomore Beatriz Williams played a successful game as well, coming back from a concussion from earlier on in the season. "I was really excited for this season because of the team

"We have three games left in the season and we have been doing really well," sophomore guard Liz Tommasi said. "Our season started off undefeated up until two weeks ago. We had two really bad losses, and I think that we have done a really good job of learning from the losses and using them in our favor rather than allowing them to tear us down. Our



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Junior Ciara McCullagh scores a career-high 19 points against Bryn Mawr

chemistry and the group of girls that we have. It's exciting to be on a team with your best friends and I feel like I have that here," she said.

Williams also commented on her motivation to come back strong after her injury. "Early on this year, I was extremely eager to play with everyone, having been injured last year and missing half of my season. Not being able to play pumped me up and pushed me to work even harder this summer so I could come back ready to go from my surgery," Williams said. "Unfortunately I received an elbow to the head that caused me to miss out on 10 games due to a concussion, but I'm finally back and really excited to be back out there on the court with the team. I feel like I have a lot of catching up to do but I am motivated to work hard to be ready in time for playoffs."

It was a significant game for Bryn Mawr senior Nicolette Parmese, as she became the school's all-time leading scorer with her first basket in the opening half. She now has over 1300 career points for Bryn Mawr.

team is working on starting, staying, and finishing strong every game. We are working on being the number one team in the conference and are looking forward to the Centennial Conference playoffs."

Junior Ciara McCullagh also finished with a career-high 19 points, which makes three girls who scored their career highs in this game. McCullagh was excited about the recent success of the Lady Jays. "This week was a great week to get back on track, to refocus and to continue to keep our eyes set on the Centennial Conference Championship," she said. "All the girls are coming to practice everyday, getting better and preparing for a tough competition in the next week."

The Blue Jays will return to the court when they travel to face Gettysburg on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The last time these two teams met, Hopkins won in a close 69-59 game. The Lady Jays look to gain another conference win as they work their way towards winning the Centennial Conference championship.

Wrestling tops two Centennial opponents

By DAVID RAUBER
Staff Writer

The Hopkins' wrestling team traveled to Grantham, Pa. on Friday night to take on third-ranked Messiah in a non-conference wrestling match. While the Blue Jays fell at the hands of the undefeated Eagles by a score of 33-9, two Jays were able to come away from their matches victorious. Senior Duncan Crystal beat Greg Kabakjian, 4-2, in the 149-pound weight class, while freshman Jordan Forman was able to pin Jeremy Bailes in the 174-pound weight class. Forman's pin brought the Blue Jays within 11 points of the Eagles, but three Messiah wins quickly followed Forman's excellent performance, putting the match out of reach for the Jays.

The Blue Jays were able to quickly bounce back from the tough loss to Messiah, as they swept a pair of conference foes in Muhlenberg and Merchant Marine Academy on Saturday evening. The Jays started with a 55-0 blowout over Muhlenberg winning the only two contested matchups, while taking the other eight by way of forfeit. Junior Paul Bewak defeated the Mules' Jaryd Flank by a score of 7-5 in the 125-pound weight class, as Crystal got the win over Chayoot Chengsupanimit in the 149-pound weight class in a 12-0 major decision.

In a hard fought bout with Merchant Marine, the Mariners were able to build an early lead against Hopkins.